Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
CLIR

https://archive.org/details/californiacondor00kofo_0

Ot Pg #2128

C.B. Koford

California Condor Study

1946 (Part 2) - 1950

Species Accounts

Gymnogyps californianus

Gymnogyps californianus

~~Mar~~ May 31, 1946 Nr. Mt. Posey, Calif.

They set off in a glide toward Breckenridge Mtn. until about 4 miles from me & at 2000±' altitude. There they circled again - and I lost them at 4:22. The NW breeze continued. The carcass was about 1 mile N. of a farmhouse - I did not have time to visit it. There were a few cattle in this area.

June 1, 1946 E. of McFarland, Calif.

At 6:30 a.m. I visited the carcass where I saw condors & turkey vultures yesterday - it proved to be a calf, still in the soft-hoofed stage. The hide was brown & white Hereford. The location was about 8½ miles E. of McFarland, about ½ mile W. of Porterville road, & 2½ miles N. of McFarland-Woody road. The remains were on a rounded ridge covered with 3" cropped dry grass & higher dry ~~wo~~ volunteer oats. The slope was about 5%. There was a barbed wire fence about 200 yds. to W. & a farmhouse about 1 mile to S. The town of McFarland was clearly visible from there. The remains were strewn in a line for about ~~100~~ 50 yds. Apparently the carcass first lay at the uphill end. There I found many tufts of hair & hide, about 20 pieces of condor-like down, a condor secondary, 2 condor "hackles", & a few turkey vulture feathers. ~~100±'~~ 50±' down the slope from this was one ramus, & 30±' further the other ramus. These were neatly cleaned & appar-

ently nibbled at condyles & anterior tips. I saved them for specimens. 30±' further on were a rib, rib fragment, & 2 small bones - possibly the hyoid - also the bone holding upper molars of one side, disarticulated from the skull & cleaned of meat. The bones had a dried-bloody look. Here also was a hoof sheath and a 3±" long curved bone, 15± tufts of hair, most with a piece of skin attached, & a few more down feathers. 20±' further on was the main body - a twisted soft hide with pelvis, all legs, & skull attached. The skull was bare to nearly the eyes & one ~~set~~ side of molars remained. Leg bones were attached - including scapulae - and pulled inside out down to the heels & wrists. The tail hide was pulled inside out, bone gone, & distal inch or so missing. Apparently all viscera & internal organs were gone. Many red ants crawled on the carcass. About 10' to N. of the hide & legs was the spine & rib cage. None of the ribs appeared to be broken though sternum was about 1/3 detached, posteriorly, & nibbled same. Only a few shreds of meat remained, & several hundred red ants crawled on the bones. The entire neck was intact including first vertebra. One hoof sheath, possibly nibbled at the tip, lay near the spine section. The lumbar vertebrae & 3 or 4 of the caudal were in another

Gymnogyps californianus

June 1, 1946 E. of McFarland, Calif.

section 10±' N. of ribs. Some of the processes had been broken at tips. I photoed the remains, the main body in situ. Further examination showed that the ears were gone & a hole remained at each of them, yet the rest of neck skin was intact. One fore-leg was pulled inside out through a hole at axilla; the other was pulled through the main abdominal opening so that only hoof tip was visible from outside. About only meat remaining was in lower legs. The skull was loose in the head skin bag. The anal hole was only about 3" in diameter, & the abdominal opening through which bones of pelvis, hind-legs, & hide around tail were pulled was about 8" forward of this. The abdominal hole could not have been over 12" in diameter - possibly a slit. Lower leg joints were flexible & carcass odoriferous - probably dead since before yesterday. Calf apparently is a favorite food. The foothill area to W. was mainly in grain it appeared - I saw only about 200 cattle, & these mainly in corrals. Blue mtn., the area of Vincent's 35 condors, was conspicuous to the E.. Sky clear, air warm, fair W. breeze at 7:30 a.m. when I left carcass. I drove then to Delano. I was told there was a severe lightning & rain storm about a week ago in this area;

Gymnogyps californianus

June 2, 1946 Fillmore, Calif.

Sid Peyton went to Hopper Rim with Mr. & Mrs. Eric Reynolds, a Hollywood director, & a couple of other people. Peyton returned about 1:30 & reported seeing 5 condors - 3 at once. The Reynolds' returned in the evening & reported seeing 5 - not over 2 at a time.

June 3, 1946 Hopper Basin, Calif.

Drove to Hopper Rim with Dr. & Mrs. Eric Reynolds, Ariel Reynolds, & Betty Davenport. We arrived at Parking Place at 12:35. Sky clear, air warm, fair breeze. We saw no condors in the nearby trees so continued on to White Point. Lunched at my camp there, then drove to head of tractor trail & hiked down trail. Mrs. Reynolds was anxious to get some photos of condors. She stayed on the tractor trail while Dr. Reynolds & daughter & I hiked down to Condor Falls. Water was running there (not at Big Cove Falls) and the pools were full & clear, but no whitewash or condor feathers were found. We found one turkey vulture primary in the top pool however. At 3:55 we saw one adult condor land in a dead *Ps.* on N. side of Arundell Ridge about 1/4 mile E. of ~~#2 nest~~ Loreta's nest. It stood facing SE about 30' from top of a 70±' dead *Ps.* and was still there at 4:05. Fair

Gymnogyps californianus

June 3, 1946 Hopper Basin, Calif.

breeze from S W. then. 4:06, the adult took off & shifted to a dead limb of a green *Ps.* about 200 yds. further E. (& 100±' below) its former perch, and stood facing SE. At 4:12 when we left it was still there. We hiked up the canyon to Big Cave. We found about 20 fairly fresh primary feathers, mostly below Whitewash Ledge, about 6 alula(?) & (gr. prim. cov.) feathers, & others. Below ~~the Whelwas~~ Whitewash Ledge & immediately (30±') below a much whitewashed hole (where I had seen condors roost & enter on several occasions) I found the broken shell of at least half of a condor egg. I found no embryo remains nor egg contents, so possibly the shell was from a hatched bird. The membrane was dry & somewhat brownish & shell dirty. It must have been this year's egg - else the birds & rodents probably would have consumed the shell. About 5:15 we left Big Cave. At 6:15 from the tractor trail I observed Arundell Ridge & found one perched adult on a partly green long limb of a *Ps.* below & 1/4±mile N. of Saddle *Ps.* Mrs. Reynolds reported she had seen 2 or 3 from the trail but not close enough for pictures. We returned to camp.

June 4, 1946 Hopper Basin, Calif.

With the Reynold's group set out for top of Big Cave. At 7:50 a.m. I saw one adult atop

Gymnogyps californianus

June 4, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

Flat Ps. Air calm & warm, sky clear. At 8:10 the adult still perched, & I spotted two others. One was atop a curved dead Ps. above and about 100 yds. to W. of Greta's nest, & the other on top branch of a stub about 200 yds. further W. and 100± ' higher. So 3 total visible (the last described possibly a turkey vulture; off a few minutes later). 8:45 the two still perched; the one nearest Greta's apparently an immature ~~a near adult~~. Light S. breeze by 8:46. I saw 2 turkey vultures soaring before 8 a.m. today. 9 a.m., we were atop Big Cave. The pool was dry though many old condor tracks remained. At 9:15 I saw the immatures perch empty & an imm. circling near Arundell Saddle. The bird circled & rose to over Spring Meadow, then flap-glided past North Point to over North Slope, then circled & rose above North Ridge (9:22). The adult remained perched on Flat Ps. as before. Light to fair S. or SW breeze. At 9:33 the adult was off - it circled and rose over Arundell Ridge, then worked up toward Pyramid Lookout & skimmed W. over the Rim about 300 yds. S. of the lookout (9:40±). At 9:42 I saw an adult descending above Arundell Ridge; it alighted with 5 backing flaps on a stub branch of a dead Ps. about halfway

ford

Gymnogyps californianus

June 4, 1946 Hopper Basin, Calif.

between Greta's nest & Arundell Saddle. About 2 minutes later it was off & after a couple of ~~circled~~ circles alighted in a green Ps. about 50 yds. uphill from former perch. There the bird stood in shade on a dead branch. 10:15, the adult perched as before, facing away from slope. 10:42, I saw another adult 300±' above ~~±?~~ ~~we~~ us. It circled 2 or 3 times near the sun, then headed W., glided N. to near North Pt., then S. toward Pyramid LO. About 10:45 the perched adult took off & perched on limb of a dead Ps. about ~~#~~ 100 yds. E. of Greta's. The adult turned around 3 or 4 times, each time with wings up or flapping, in about 2 minutes, then shifted to a whitewashed point under an overhang in center of main Arundell Cliff. I saw 2 other adult condors soaring nearby it then. The perched one took off (about 10:50) & joined them. They rose over Arundell Ridge & soared back & forth low over it. One circled & rose & was over Pyramid LO at ~~11:05~~ 11:00 a.m. One other perched on a branch of a green Ps. - the other swooped up to land there & first took off & subsequently landed (11:02) about 300 yds. to W. of first in a green Ps. near Flat Ps. First bird in same tree as the long-perched adult (to 10:42). About ~~11:15~~ 11:20, ~~one~~ the E. one was off - it circled & rose over S. Ridge area with another condor (11:30).

Ford

3126

Gymnogyps californianus

June 4, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

Possibly one still perched near Flat Ps. At 12:00 we started N. up cliff tops. 12:05, one adult came toward us from W., circled 300± overhead, then went 1/2± mile N., circled again, then soared S. over East Canyon. A second adult circled near Arundell Cliffs & alighted atop Flat Ps. Another adult was atop Ps. about 200 yds. E. of that one - as before today. We hiked to car at head of tractor trail, then drove to Pyramid Lookout. From there at 1:55 I saw none on Flat Ps. or elsewhere. Fair W. breeze persisted; visibility beyond Hopper Basin restricted by haze?. By 3 p.m., with constant search from Pyramid LO, I saw no condors. ~~3:50~~, 3:05, I saw one adult alight in a dead Ps. near N. end of Rock Ledge - a moment later it was off, gliding N., & disappeared behind (E. of) a ridge about 1/2 mile N. of tree. 3:50, I saw one adult soaring near Condor Cliff. It swooped over falls brink & alighted atop cliff over Whitewash Ledge. A raven dove at it 2 or 3 times, coming within 8±' of condor. The condor took off, still pursued by raven, & landed into a pothole beneath the ledge. Another pothole, 10±' to N. of this one, was also apparently occupied by a condor. 4:27, the adult which alighted in pothole left & soared straight to N. side of Arundell Ridge. Breeze fair from SW at 4:30. 4:35, I saw

Gymnogyps californianus

June 4, 1946 Hopper Basin, Calif.

one immature about 1/2 mile N. of the foot of Rock Ridge - it circled down, feet down, & disappeared behind same ridge where adult disappeared earlier. Saw no more condors by 4:45 so left the lookout. At 4:53, when we were in road at lookout area, one ragged adult soared 300±' above us. It soared back & forth in our vicinity and S. to Parking Place & Lone Oak vicinity occasionally, then back over us, & at 5:16 headed E. into ~~over~~ Hopper Basin. The breeze was fair from SW, & this bird tacked into the wind, circled & rose, or glided parallel to Rim with ease. Occasionally it gave 1 or 2 wing dips & lost altitude. Mrs. Reynolds shot movies of this bird. It had a gap in primaries of one side (about #8 missing), a notch in inner secondary area of same side, #7-9 primaries of other side apparently a little short, & a general raggedness. Feet were down occasionally - perhaps it desired to alight in trees at head of Parking Canyon but we disturbed it. We drove on. From near Old Cabin could spot none in Big Cave area. Returned to camp at head of Hopper Canyon.

June 5, 1946

The Reynolds' party left & at 9 a.m. I started from road on the Whiteacre Pk. trail. Arrived at trail summit at 10 a.m. Sky 8/10 cirro-stratus; light SW breeze commenced at 10 a.m. At 10:03 I saw

30 - aven 6R, 7 l. 1 ch. surf. oth ft dam

ord

Gymnogyps californianus

June 5, 1946 Whiteacre Pk., Calif.

two adults ~~at~~ perched on the tip of a sandstone bluff on W. side of the ridge about ½ mile S. of Whiteacre Pk. This was same point where I saw mating display earlier this year. 10:05, one adult crouched flat but was up in 30± sec. 10:08, one sunned, facing sun wings outspread & body erect. The other stood 5±' away, facing first, & sunned back, body tilted forward . Both had ceased sunning by 10:11. 10:16, both took off to NW about 1 minute apart, circled together, feet down, then separated - one descended out of my sight as if to land about 300' below Whiteacre Pk. on the SW side while the other landed on cliff point 200± yds. up the slope from first perch (highest cliff point on that slope). The perched adult mostly stood quietly & occasionally preened. 10:40, a raven perched about 10' on one side of perched adult, later 6±' on other & walked about 4' in front of condor in returning to first spot; the condor showed no interest. 10:44, I saw an adult was now also on the first (lower) perch point on tip of cliff . Upper adult faced out from cliff . No change by 11:00 - both quite inactive. At 11:25 the lower took off, circled, & rose near upper. The upper then took off & circled 100±' below ~~of~~ other. They soared toward Rim as if to cross just S. of Whiteacre Pk., but lower lacked altitude &

ing

nest #13

un

ford

Gymnogyps californianus

June 5, 1946 Whiteacre Pk, Calif.

est5A

circled again, then soared 1/4 ± mile SW, rising. The two soared over me (200±') at 11:30. One had puffed cheeks - perched & in air - and thus resembled one which nested on N. side of Whiteacre Pk. before. The other carried feet down. One had #6 right and #7 left primaries short. Neither was the 5:15 bird of yesterday. They bore off to NE about 11:35. Sky 4/10 cirrus & cirro stratus; fair SW breeze. I continued on to the old nest on ~~the~~ N. side of Whiteacre Pk. near the trail, arriving 12:10. This nest cave showed no sign of recent condor use. Returned then to summit of trail arriving at 12:45. I found on the open rocks there the remains of a coyote which Sid Peyton had removed from one of Herman Keene's traps earlier this year, & next to the carcass under a stone I found one fresh condor alula(?) feather. The spine from occiput to next to distal tail vertebra was in one piece, ribs & pelvis attached. A few tips of small ribs were broken but most intact. Both hind legs still articulated with pelvis but were skinned out & flesh eaten halfway down the shins. One forleg ~~bare~~ ~~was~~ ~~shown~~ ~~inside~~ bone was pulled out of skin to just forward of elbow. The other was separate from carcass & free of flesh & hide to the toenails. Both had all bones ~~piece~~ attached still. The hide was inside out & had 1 twist.

eding

Gymnogyps californianus

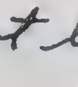
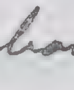
June 3, 1946 Whiteacre Pk., Calif.

Anus hole was about 2 × 3". Abdomen opening extended between forelegs & possibly had been cut open. Os penis was fairly well cleaned of flesh but attached to hide still. Neck skin was inside out & skull skinned except for rostrum from nose to eyes. No internal organs or smell was evident. Several rocks nearby showed possible condor whitewash. Pads of 3 remaining feet were intact. Condors probably contributed to cleaning of this carcass. I ascended Whiteacre Pk. At 1:25 when 50±' from top, I saw one adult 300±' overhead. It was the puffy cheeked one with primary out of each wing which I saw this morning. I was on top (5100 ft.) at 1:30. The adult soared back & forth over me 2 or 3 times, feet down, then headed S., feet up, in a long glide. At 1:42 I lost track of this bird apparently over the E. slope of Hopper Mtn. Fair W. breeze atop the ~~pk~~ peak; sky 3/10 cirrus. 2:00, I saw one adult soaring near where I first saw the condors this morning. It skirted the cliffs & rose, circling, then headed 200±' over me. It was "Puffy Cheeks" again. It tacked slowly back & forth at about 6000' level until about 1 mile toward Sulphur Pk., then fell off to left to above Rim, then soared over me again at about 5400' level (2:23), then soared 1/2± mile S & back, then to W. at 6000±'

Gymnogyps californianus

June 5, 1946 Whiteacre Pk., Calif.

light

level for about 1 mile (2:26). Then fell off to S. again until about over Rim, then N. again (all very slowly) to about 1/4 mile NW of me, then S. again over the Rim about 1 mile, then back N. toward me at lower level & about 100' above me at 2:33. In heading N., right side of tail depressed (rudder effect). When bird turned W. into wind, it rose rapidly. This bird and other seen this morning - has no apparent "crop bulge". Adult went back & forth 1/4± mile just over & W. of me again, then tacked about 1 1/2 mile S. (2:38) & returned N. (2:40, 300± yds. W. & 200±' above me atop Whiteacre Pk.). Then back & forth 2 or 3 more times, then S. just W. of & above the Rim - on and on - until apparently again over E. slope of Hopper Mtn. at about 4200' level. 3:05, I again saw an adult soaring near the cliffs 1/2± mile to S. of me, & a few moments later (3:06) saw one adult perched on the point where I first saw condors this morning, facing in . About 3:35, this bird faced S. on the same rock point. SW breeze continued, but cooler, & sky 1/10 cirro-stratus. 3:39,  again, facing in from cliff. About 3:55 the adult faced N. on its point. 4:03, facing W. - "just looking around" the main occupation; occasional preening. 4:08, an adult soared S. about 100' from me & joined another which circled & rose just W. of the cliffs about 1 1/2 miles to S.. The perched adult seemed somewhat interested & faced E. Breeze died to

Gymnogyps californianus

June 5, 1946 Whiteacre Pk, Calif.

faint about 4 p.m. 4:25, I saw 4 condors, apparently near Pyramid L O, head eastward in a fast flex-glide and disappear, descending, S. of North Ridge. The glide was fast, & occasionally, 1 bird passed another. The groups was strung out about 1/2 mile. 4:30, saw one more close Rim to E. near small mdw. So at least 5, probably, at least 6 condors in the area. 4:40, I saw one soaring over the North slope area. Near adult perched as before. At 4:45 it crouched flat, about half the body over the cliff edge. Intermittent fair E. breeze. 4:55, the adult was standing again. At 4:59 it took off, descending - I lost it but saw one on dead limb of a green Ps. about 300 yds. to W. & 200±' below the perch at 5 p.m. The bird was in shade of green branches above. Steady fair E. breeze. I started for camp, arriving 6:35 & seeing no condors on the way.

st 3 adult

June 6, 1946 Nr. Whiteacre Pk, Calif.

Left camp at 7:10, started on Whiteacre trail at 7:30, and at 8:15 arrived atop a point of the cliffs about 1/2 mile S. of Whiteacre Pk. & 1/4 mile N. of the ~~wall~~ cliff points where I saw the condors perched yesterday. In the tree where I saw the adult at 5 p.m. yesterday, I now saw 2 adults, both standing, backs to sun. One was on top branch - on the ~~dead~~ leafless portion of a green branch, & the other was about 10' below on opposite side of the tree near center of a green branch. Both were quite calm & quiet. about 8:30 the upper stretched left wing & leg down &

t roost

:55 – Lauwer wraps up, then again, + off.

ford

Gymnogyps californianus

June 6, 1946 Nr. Whiteacre Pk., Calif.

back, & slowly bowed forward - tail ~~is~~ was swung to left in too, slowly - then folded wing but remained bent forward for 1± minute. Upper had a white feather showing atop wing near right elbow; lower was apparently "Puffy cheeks". Both preened in the sunshine. Sky clear, visibility good (best for several days), air calm - occasional faint breeze. This roost tree is about 120 yds. down the 30± % N. slope. There are many green & 2 dead trees higher on the ridge. The ridge faces Deer Mdw. (on S. side of next ridge to N.) where I have seen many deer, & one lion this year). At 8:55, lower adult cocked its wings as if to take off, then folded them, then cocked them again & took off. It circled & figure-eighted around the perch tree without flapping until about 20' above it, then gave a wing dip, put feet down, (at 8:58) & after a few more turns swooped to a landing about 10' from and 2±' below the other - the flier was deffinitely "Puffy Cheeks". Air still calm - perhaps this bird found soaring too arduous so re-landed. I suppose the birds are somewhat disturbed by my presence. 9:06, the same adult again off (lost it) while other was turned around, now facing NE, ruff down, crop apterium barely showing. 9:15, a steady cool SW breeze commenced, about 8 m.p.h. Inasmuch as there may be a nest here, & I saw courting here, it may be that courting occurs only close to the pros-

? roost activ.

:39 off - flt lawn - back & forth - landed :41.

:58, fl. up onto cl.

:09 - oth ly., cr. blge. PC off.

circled, flt d.

lower chased, crooking

:16, pull me to next point. Oth. flat crop - circled ~~m.~~ or. ma
up over km & off (:20).

:21 Lav. att. G. Cag. - cause ram.

Gymnogyps californianus

June 6, 1946 Nr. Whiteacre Pk, Calif.

pective nest site (within ½ mile say) such as Big Cave or Arundell Ridge or Pine Canyon. 9:20, the perched adult gave a deep slow "wind bow" to NE, then slowly turned about & faced SW as when first seen today. The broken shell ~~below~~ near Big Cave may have been from same pair as Work's nest & the one near Condor Falls. The nest at Oscar's & North Point may have been same pair. And ~~two~~ several locations at Beartrap Canyon (Truesdale) and Pine & Coldwater Canyons (Peytons). So perhaps mating for life is indicated though same hole may not be used always. Disturbance at one site might easily drive the pair to another, tho some might use the same. 9:30, the remaining adult took off & ~~soar~~ glided straight WNW over the Little Sespe area, & I lost it - first may also have followed this route. Breeze ~~somewhat~~ intermittent tho air felt fresh. I moved S. then at at 10:10 was on the high cliff point where I saw ~~condors~~ a condor perch yesterday. At 10:22, "Puffy Cheeks" soared past about 200 yds. to W. of me, feet down, then to WSW, feet up, for about a mile, then back, feet ~~up~~ down, & swooped to a landing out of my sight on or near the NW facing cliff 150± ' below me (below & NE of lower cliff perch ~~at~~ point; 200± yds. E. of roost tree of this morning). There is a whitewashed ledge & pothole near center of ~~that~~ cliff, so ~~probably~~ possibly that is where the condor landed. At 10:38 the adult was in air. It soared about ½ mile N.,

in watch

Gymnogyps californianus

June 6, 1946 Nr. Whiteacre Pk., Calif.

feet down, passing very close to some cliffs, & at 10:41 landed on a slightly whitened point of a sandstone cliff about 3/8 mile N. of and 400± ' below me. This was near top of the lowest of the big ledges ~~below the~~ in the first W.-running spur S. of Whiteacre Pk. The point was about 10' from top of the 80±' ledge, & the ground below the cliff sloped steeply away for 1/4± mile to canyon bottom. 2 other points nearby were slightly whitened also. At 10:58 this bird flapped & jumped upward and back into a "V" in the cliff, out of my sight. Probably that is the nest (#13) but it is not visible from any cliff in the Whiteacre area - it could be seen from the Squaw Flat road, ~~however~~, apparently from about 1 1/2 miles to W. of nest (NE of Sulphur Pk.). At 11:39 the other adult soared past the nest, crop area bulging greatly. This bird continued on 1/2± mile S. of nest, then Puffy Cheeks took off. They circled together, feet down, until at Rim level above nest. Then both went into a steep banked dive for 150± ft. as a raven attacked them (a raven nest in a near cliff there). The raven attacked several more times, flying after the condors & croaking. Apparently it never actually hit a condor. The raven flew away when condor headed toward it in circling, then chased condor as rear was turned. The raven nest apparently about 200' above &

en
hases
condor

ford

Gymnogyps californianus

June 6, 1946 Nr. Whiteacre Pk, Calif.

500' S. of condor nest. The condors twisted & descended when pursued so that they were once again at nest level. At 11:16 the full cropped condor landed on the same perch point at nest – Puffy Cheeks circled & rose until at 11:20 it was above the Rim. The raven pair set out to W. croaking loudly & flapping rapidly and attacked a golden eagle. The eagle came toward the cliff in a fast glide & landed in a pothole near me, passing about 300' over & 600' S. of condor. Apparently the condor was not disturbed. The eagle flew off to W. again, still pursued by the ravens. At 11:55 the condor stood quietly as before. Perhaps it takes some time to prepare newly acquired food for the chick (perhaps 6 or 7 weeks old or less at this time of year). The adult preened & occasionally faced a different direction. Still there at 1 p.m., at cliff edge, facing in. 1:15, the adult crouched flat on cliff edge, facing in on the 4±' wide shelf. Very light whitewash on that point & 2 others nearby – not enough to make one suspect more than an occasional roosting place. Adult again stood about 1:35. 2:08, the adult crouched flat at cliff edge again. This bird apparently found food, fed, & returned between 9:30 & 11:09. About 2:55 the perched adult again stood. Breeze today has been mainly light, from SW – less breeze than yesterday but slightly cooler. At 3:06, perched adult was gone.

Gymnogyps californianus

June 6, 1946 Nr. Whiteacre Pk, Calif.

At 3:19 one adult descended above the nest, fast, pursued briefly by a raven. The adult alighted on the nest perch point at 3:20 and stood at edge of cliff, preening & looking about. This bird had bulging crop & was apparently same that left about 3:06. If it were not for my presence, perhaps the bird would be perching where I am (or nearly) as last evening. The birds have not soared near me today as if curious, yet I believe my presence caused them to leave roost earlier than normal. Breeze faint to light after 4 p.m. At 4:15, perched adult as before. I left for camp.

June 7, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

Left camp about 7:25 & at 7:55 was on the road about 1/2 mile N. of Old Cabin. From there I saw 5 condors perched in trees on Arundell Ridge. Three were in one tall dead Ps. above the main cliff. Two turkey vultures also perched in this tree - one above the 3 condors & another on same branch (8± ' away) as center condor. The lowest condor I saw alight there after circling low over the ridge. About 3 minutes later all these birds were off. I saw 1 condor alight atop Flat Ps. & another 100± ' away in a green Ps. I saw one in a green Ps. about 1/4 mile downhill to N. from Saddle Ps.. 8:15, I counted 6 or 7 condors perched or soaring low over Arundell Ridge. Two soared together; one landed on a Conifer

& ndors

ford

Gymnogyps californianus

June 7, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

branch of a green P.s. & took off as other landed there; then the second took off as a third skimmed close by. Sky clear, air warm, faint breeze at best. 8:20, 7 condors perched on Arundell Ridge. Three on branches of a dead stub, two in top of a green P.s. & a third 50±' away (about 100 yds. from stub) and one near Saddle P.s. as before. 8:23, 8 perched, one being added to the 3 in green trees. 8:25 - 11 perched, 3 in the tall dead P.s. where 3 seen about 8 a.m. 8:30, 5 were about 500' over Arundell Ridge, circling & rising. They apparently descended to ridge again - I saw 9 there at 8:34, 3 in air. One chased another 2 or 3 times in steep twisting dives. 8:38, 6 in air over Arundell Ridge. Much ~~roost~~ perch shifting - apparently none perched at same spot since 8 a.m. 8:42, 6 visible perched & 4 soaring 400±' over Sandstone Mesa. 8:49, I saw a possible imm. atop Flat P.s. with wings out giving gentle flaps as if begging while facing an adult. The adult took off & two landed - the possible imm. repeated the performance for 3± flaps. 8:57, 9 in air up to 1500±' over Arundell Ridge area, & 1 perched atop Flat P.s. Shortly before, one hurriedly left ~~S~~ Flat P.s. as another flew close (10±') by. 9:05 - two perched on Flat P.s. & at least 3 above horizon. Two of the 3 soared together, & one swooped after the other, both going nearly straight up, wings bowed, before falling off.

Gymnogyps californianus

June 7, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

9:13, still 5 visible at Arundell Ridge - 2 atop Flat Ps. took off simultaneously as another passed 20±' away. 9:18, 6 condors soaring low over Arundell Ridge - none visible perched. 9:23, 5 perched & one soaring low over trees; 4 perched in one green Ps., highest tree on the ridge (near Flat Ps.). Breeze light now & air warmer. 9:28, 5 visible perched; there had been some shifting - 2 on Flat Ps. now & 2 in the higher tree. 9:39, I counted at least 6 - possibly 8 - at Arundell Ridge. Two soared E. down the canyon. 9:42, counted 10, 9 perched, on Arundell Ridge. Three were atop Flat Ps. and 2 (or 3) in lower branches. Perhaps the 5± that rose earlier went for a drink & returned to roost. 9:48, I saw at least 5 soaring low over Arundell Ridge area as if heading toward Big Cave. "Rising time" about 9:50. Two chased, flapping & rising, several times. 9:55, I could spot none, soaring or perched, so hiked toward Old Cabin - At 10:05 I saw 1 soaring near Condor Cliff. 10:10, two adults came E. over the Rim near Small Mdw. & glided down into Hopper Basin - possibly #13 nest pair. 10:15, I saw 1 perched on Flat Ps. & another soaring over Arundell Ridge - this one later circled over Spring Mdw. I arrived at Old Cabin at 10:30 & saw 2 perched in trees on Arundell Ridge. Light W. breeze. 10:38 - two chased low over Arundell Ridge & I saw 1 perched in dead Ps. there. I hiked on to-

ford

[Times for 7 June all 15 minutes late — subtract ask 15]

Gymnogyps californianus

June 7, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

ward Pyramid L.O. At 10:50 I saw one adult on Flat Ps. — it was still there at 11:15 when I arrived at Pyramid L.O. At 11:15 I also saw one adult perched on top long branch of Near Roost Tree, 6± out from trunk, standing quietly, facing S. Cool fair SW breeze; visibility fair. 11:30, the 2 perched as before; I had discovered no others. 11:55, the one on Flat Ps. was gone though one (same?) was atop a green Ps. about 200 yds. further E.. About 12:15 the adult left Near Roost Tree, & 3± minutes later the one left its Arundell Ridge perch. I could spot no others so at 12:30 left & hiked toward Hopper mtn. Hiked on Hopper Ranch trail to above Hopper Ranch, thence over the ridge to W. to Turner Oil Co., arriving about 2:15. I saw no condors on the way. Pete Logan told me that a day or two after Sid Peyton laid out the coyote carcass at Whiteacre Pk., Herman Kane saw about 15 or 16 condors there. I believe that such large numbers at a small carcass indicates hunger. Pete also told me that in the winter of 1943 (?) the snow was waist deep at Turner Oil Co. after one storm — this was the worst snow in at least 16 years ~~that~~ Pete has lived there. Another heavy snow, knee deep, occurred the winter 2 men froze to death in Hopper Canyon.

Gymnogyps californianus

June 9, 1946 Ventura, Calif.

Frank Brundage of Ventura who works sometimes as a county game warden said that he saw some condors in Santa Paula canyon this year. That last year he worked on Mt. Abel but saw none there. That there are many cattle in the Mutau Flats area.

June 10, 1946 Hopper Ranch, Calif.

I drove from Fillmore to Hopper Ranch. Gene & Ruth Percy were in L.A., selling cattle - they had rounded up a few days before - but S. H. Percy (Gene's father) was there. He said he had not seen any condors there lately. He spends most of his time on the ranch near the ranchhouse.

June 11, 1946 Ventura Co., Calif.

I visited Gold Top, Orr's, & Sanitary Dairies to obtain a calf - got one about 4 days old at Orr's - a brown & white Guernsey weighing about 85 lbs. Took it alive to Fillmore & killed it at about 5 p.m. by shooting through the head.

June 12, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

Drove from Fillmore to Hopper Rim - Saw on the way that the falls in Coldwater Canyon was flowing well - visibility good about 6:30 a.m. but I could spot no condors

Gymnogyps californianus

June 12, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

in Pine or Coldwater Canyons. Dragged & carried the calf down into Big Meadow to near Wolk's blind where I could watch it from Pyramid L O about 3/4 mile away. Wired it to an iron stake. The carcass was about 60' from the nearest tree - a spreading low walnut - on a slightly-rocky, dry oat-covered, E. slope of about 10%. A few Herefords grazed in this meadow. Unfortunately two adult condors were able to watch the whole process. One ~~was~~ was in next to highest roost tree ~~to~~ in canyon E. of Parking Place, & the other in the school-marm tree about 200 yds. further down the slope. Both were standing on ~~the~~ 4-5" thick horizontal branches. The lower was about 200 yds. from calf & facing it - ruff down, crop patch showing. The upper had crop bulging. Sky clear, air warm, flies active, & no breeze. I left the carcass at 7:35 & returned to Rim. The upper condor was sunning its back, wings 3/4 spread. At 8 a.m. I was in Pyramid L O, set to watch. Both birds on same perches, now upper adult facing E. too. Lower adult crouched flat (8 a.m.). 8:20, lower adult standing, upper crouched flat. Before 8:25 the lower adult apparently left - I could not

Gymnogyps californianus

June 12, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

locate it. I saw a large black bear walking within 100' of Condor Falls at 8 a.m. 8:30, I saw 2 condors atop Flat Ps. A turkey vulture was sunning its back, wings spread, about 8' from one condor. The other condor was 5±' lower than upper - it clambered, flapping, to tree tops & the vulture flew tho condor had not come within 6'. I saw 2 other vultures soaring near Arundell Ridge then. 8:38, none visible on Flat Ps.. The close adult flattened as before. I saw a coyote walking uphill about 300 yds downhill from my "bait". 8:57, I located the second near adult - it was perched in Near Roost Tree on highest long branch
apparently it had shifted perches uphill about 250 yds.
on SE side of the tree, standing, occasionally preening.
The other adult flattened as before at 9 a.m. ~~9:15~~ 9:19, the lower adult stood up & preened below left wing. 9:23, the upper adult took off downhill with a spring. It soared about over Big Meadow & Rock Ridge area, then N. to near Arundell Saddle, then to Big Meadow area again, apparently circling about 300' over the bait 2± times, then N. to near Condor Cliff, then S. again and at 9:40 I lost it behind Rock Ridge as it soared down Hopper Canyon, low. During all this time the bird did not flap or act as if striving for altitude - occasionally a wing dip

~~5 8 - off + alighted - missed - wary~~

~~ups - fell - off again -~~

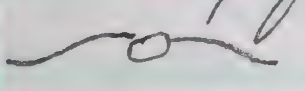
~~10:00 - 30±' below, same tree~~

~~:01 - 2nd. imm. alighted 12±' higher~~

~~:02 - ups. imm. to 10±' low br., walked to oth imm - stood tog., wings flapp., then calm.~~

Gymnogyps californianus

June 12, 1946 Hopper Rim, Calif.

was given. Rather the flight seemed one of reconnoitering. at 9:39 the adult passed another soaring condor over SE Canyon. The other near adult remained perched (same at 9:45). The one which left had less crop bulge + probably greater hunger-pressure. Breeze occasionally light, mostly faint or calm. 9:50, I saw an immature with small dark spot in center each under wing patch in lower part of tree where adult was perched- then both imm. + adult took off + circled about over Big Meadow, especially the bait area, for about 3 minutes. The imm. was a very clumsy flier - wings were bowed down  most of the time, tail twisted + bobbed violently. Then adult alighted on top branch of a dead Ps. about 200 yds. N. of bait, + imm. about 50' below in same tree. The imm. flapped its wings very loosely- almost as if they were out of joint - for 15± sec., then stood with wings out. a few seconds later the imm. hopped up to a higher branch, then a higher, all extremely floppily + unsteadily. Then, at 9:58, the imm. took off, turned 2± circles, + swooped to a landing on a small branch tip about 10' from adult - but

06 - ~~[illegible]~~ imms. up.

08 - both off & ads

09 - all 3 at calf.

10· 1 imm. flew at other chasing it 50±' down sl - ad at carc.

11 - imms. walked up. adult feeding, imm. at and 2. beside.

12 - Another ad. lit 50±' upsl. & hopped to carc. another imm. too. 2 ad & 3 imm. on carc. at 10:13. One ad. flew over carc. at other ad ~~imm~~, & chased 30±' downh., then returned, other too.

:15 One ad. flew at imm & pushed it back 3± times, imm. returning to carc. each time. T.V. circ. low overh.

:18 - 1 ad. chased 1 imm 10±' from carc; other another. Imms. walked right back tho., farthest about 8' from carc. & others at.

:21 - ~~t~~two imms. seem to tug at hd. area. One flew at other & drove back. One ad. flew over carc. to scare an imm. Raven alighted in near tree - on gro. ~~30~~ 20±' fm h. at :23.

:23, 4 card at carc., 1 imm. standing 15±' downh.

Gymnogyps californianus

June 12, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

missed & grabbed a 3±' lower branch. When some steadiness regained, the imm. flapped violently - begging hard apparently. The tail flapped up & down loosely as the wings pumped. The imm. worked up to adult's level, then fell 6±' to another branch & then took off. At 10 a.m. it alighted about 30' below adult on same tree. 10:01, a second imm. alighted, 12±' higher in tree. The upper imm. flew to a 10±' lower branch, then walked up to other immature. Both flapped wings as if wrestling heads or losing balance, then they stood calmly together. The immatures climbed up toward adult. 10:08, both took off, & adult too - at 10:09 I saw 3 (these same probably) on the ground at the calf. 10:10, one imm. flew at the other & chased it 30±' down the slope. The adult was at the carcass. The chased imm. walked back up to carcass. The adult fed at anal region, apparently. Heat waves & low angle made visibility poor at carcass. 10:12, a second adult alighted 50±' uphill & bounced down to the calf. Another imm. alighted too - 2 adults & 3 imm. at calf at 10:13. One adult flew over the carcass at the other or an imm. - (both ran) - and chased the bird 30±' downhill, then walked back to carcass (other adult back too). 10:15, an adult flew at imm. &

ford

Gymnogyps californianus

June 12, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

forced it back 3± times, imm. walking back to carcass each time. These attacks are made by running or flying at the other bird, sometimes with bill outstretched - actual contact seems rare. A turkey vulture circled low over the condors - no reaction. 10:18, adult chased an imm. 10±' from carcass; other adult chased another (uphill). The immatures walked right back to the calf - one imm. was about 8' from carcass, the others at it. 10:21, two imm. tugging at head (?) area. One flew at the other + drove it back. One adult flew over carcass to drive back an imm.. One raven alighted in tree 50±' from calf - it was on the ground 20±' from carcass at 10:23. 10:23, one imm. 10±' downhill from calf; 4 condors at the calf. 10:25, one adult took off downhill + perched in a large dead P.s. about 500 yds. to SE of carcass. 10:27, the remaining ~~adult~~ adult + 2 immatures fed. Adult stood on downhill side, took 1 or 2 quick tugs, then held head high + looked about for 2± sec, then put head down again. 10:29, the ostracized immature walked up to the carcass. Adult took 8 successive tugs, hard, without apparently changing grip (at belly side of calf). 10:32, one imm. chased

:25 1 ad. t.o. downh., perched in Ps. 500± yds - to SE.

:27, 2 imm. + 1 ad. fd. Ad. stood on downh. side, took 1 or 2 quick tugs, then head high 2± sec., then down.

:29 The extra. imm. up to carc.
Ad. took 8 hard tugs once

:32 One imm. chased anoth 20±' downh., then 20±' farther, then galloped back. Downhill bird walked up to carc again. It received pecking (?) + walked 10±' downhill unchased.

:35 ad - feeds much more than imm. Imm. slow + appar. never look about. Imm. away from ad 10' nearly always.

:38 - ad. ceased feed.
:39 - ad off, downh. - glided around ridge into S. cany. Perched ad. as before.

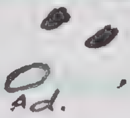
:40. 2 imm. at carc., 1 15±' away upsl.

:45, only 1 feed, 2 stand. 5 + 10' away.
TV lit 20±' aw. + off.

:47, 2 TV lit within 10' of carc.
:48 - only 1 c. feed; 2 desist., walk. ab. in grass. No react. to TV.

Gymnogyps californianus

June 12, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

another about 20' downhill, stopped, then another 20±'; then galloped back to the carcass. The chased bird walked uphill to the carcass again. It was attacked by another imm., then walked 10±' downhill (sullenly?). 10:35, the adult feeds much more "business-like" than the immatures. Latter are slow, dallying, & never look about for danger. Nearly always the immatures stood opposite to adult at carcass . 10:38, adult ceased feeding & stood. 10:39, adult took off & glided into S. Canyon it appeared. Perched adult as before. 10:40, 2 imm. at carcass & 1 about 15' uphill (probably always the same one - apparently he never gets a bite). 10:47, 2 turkey vultures perched within 10' of the carcass - no reaction. 10:48, 1 condor feeding, 2 walking about in the grass disinterestedly. The feeder stood atop the carcass, then on ground at anal area. The vultures walk away from the condors when the latter move - apparently the vultures have not eaten a bite either. 11:01, I saw one adult alight atop cliffs on S. side of Big Cove, & another in a pothole below Whitewash Ledge, & saw another circling there. 11:05, 2 imm. at carcass; the other walked about 20' uphill, then after 15± sec. walked slowly down - two vultures walked out of its way. To 11:10, 2 feeding desultorily at

ford

Gymnogyps californiánus

June 12, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

carcass, the other 10±' downhill. 11:14, the vultures took off; one raven + a fourth imm. circled low over the bait. 11:15, two adults landed + chased the imm. from calf. 1 imm. took off. The perched adult as before with one imm. in same tree 20±' below. 11:19, a third immature + a third adult landed near calf. Perched adult was now on ~~same~~ same branch as imm. + apparently feeding it - at least facing + imm. wings flopping much as if being fed. 11:23, 5 adults at carcass, 1 or 2 ravens, 1 or 2 vultures, + 2 or more immatures. 11:25, 8 adults + 3 imm. within 50' of carcass but only 2 or 3 apparently close enough to feed on it. Minimum 9 adults + 4 imm. present. 11:30 - adult + imm. side by side in tree together still. 11:31, a dark imm. perched in dead Ps. about 200 yds. N. of carcass. 11:33, one adult nipped another - the latter took off, then nipper, then all off. I saw 9 circling near Rock Ridge, 1 over Pauling Knoll, + 2 perched. 11:35, a second imm. atop the near tree; I saw one condor atop Flat Ps. too. 11:39, two adults alighted in tree with the 2 imm., + at least 4 adults soared low over Big Meadow. 11:40, a third adult alighted in the tree - a perched adult flew 8±' to another branch to ~~vacte~~ vacate the perch. The new adult sprang onto ~~those~~ that

~~One at carc~~
Feeder atop carc. :53, imm. at anal reg.

:56 - TV's stand close but haven't tried to eat;

:59 1 atop + 1 at anal reg - oth stands quiet by head.

11:01 - 1 ad lit S. side BC; 1 in swath. near wh. L., other ~~lef~~ circ. im. - at least 7 then (3 or 4 imm.)

11:05 2 imm at carc; 3rd. walk. sl. 20±' upsl. & 15±s. later down. 2 TV walked out of way. App. this 1 imm. not all. to feed at all.

:10 - 2 at carc. feed desultorily, 1 10±' downh., 2 TV's 10±' fr. carc.

:14 - the TV's off. 1 Rav. & a 4th imm.: circl. 50±' over bait.

:15 - 2 ad landed + chased imms. from carc. One imm off. Perched ad. ~~on~~ in tree as bef. & one imm. in same tree.

.19, 3rd. imm. landed - then 3rd adult .. so 3 ad & 5 imm.

On the tree, ad now on same br. as imm., appar. tired (muscle sore) but facing imm. & imm. flapping.

Gymnogyps californianus

June 12, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

branch a few seconds later & the other adult edged out toward tip. 11:42, a fourth adult landed in lowest branches of the tree - and commenced working up, hopping from branch to branch. An upper adult climbed up alongside top adult - both flopped as if losing balance & both took off. 11:43, only 1 adult & 1 imm. left in that tree, so the imm. 10±' above the adult & a raven 8±' horizontally from imm.. 11:45 - the "fed" youngster now alone. 11:52, 12 perched (11 in Near Roost Trees, 1-4 per tree) and 4 or 5 low in air in that vicinity. Crops of some bulged greatly (16 or 17 condors). 11:53, two adults soared 100±' above the lookout. Breeze was fair to strong from SW & cool. Since the condors left the carcass, no ravens or vultures have alighted near it - about 6 vultures circling near it, however. 12:00, 4 condors circled near the bait. At least 3 landed in Near Roost Trees. Two shifted from their tree to one further downhill (200± yds.). 12:05, 10 perched in 3 dead Ps. north of the carcass, 2, 3, & 5/tree, & 3 circling over Sandstone Mesa (300±' alt.). The "fed" youngster now crouched flat. 12:15, these 11 quiet as before. Four adults, feet down, soared from the Arundell Ridge vicinity & so flew back & forth low near the carcass but didn't land. A

Gymnogyps californianus

June 12, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

6th condor (adult) perched in the tree with 5 already. 12:30, 11 perched as before, 1 (from tree with 3) gone (to other tree?); none at carcass. Two imm. & 1 adult crouched flat. Breeze light to fair. By 12:40, 3 had left Near Roost Tree; I saw 4 in air (3 adults, 1 imm.). 12:45, 7 perched (2 ad.); 6+ in air. 12:55, 5 were about 500' over Arundell Ridge & a 6th over North Slope - these scattered soon. 1:00, only 4 perched now; 2 imm. & an adult ~~in~~ about 200 yds. N. of carcass in one tree & the "fed" youngster (standing now). 1:00, I saw an adult low over Rock Ridge, feet down, crop bulging - it rose to 4500t' level, (an immy. soared near it) then descended & landed in Near Roost Tree at 1:09. 1:15, this adult, 1 imm. in tree where 6 were, & the "fed" youngster were only perched condors visible. By 1:20 two imm. joined the ~~adu~~ adult in Near Roost Tree, & an adult landed in another ~~Near tree~~ Near tree. I saw one soaring over White Cliffs. Recollecting - it was about 1 hour from time adult finished feeding to time it "fed" the ~~at~~ youngster. I left carcass at 7:35 - condors at it at 10:10. Adult perched close never left the vicinity before going to the food - the birds' seeing me put it out had apparently no effect. Some evidence of adults leading immatures to food.

:23 - 5 adults at carcass, + 1 or 2 raven, 1 or 2 TV, 2 or + imm. Ad. + imm. still in tree (:24) together.

:25, 8 ad. + 3 imm. at carc. within 50' - only 2 or 3 app. near enough to feed. So, 9 ad. + 4 imm. at least. Ad. + imm. st. g. on tree br. ~~together~~ still (11:30).

:31 - dark imm. lit atop ~~tree~~ dead Ps. 200±' N. of carc.

:33 - one nipped an ad.; 1 off, then oth. Then all off. 9 circl. near Rock Ledge, 2 on tree, 2 ad. lower Park. Rn.

:35, 2nd imm. stops near tree. 1 stops F. lat Ps.

:39, 2 ad. also in that tree, + 4 or + s's over Big mdw. lane

:40 - 3rd. ad lit on tree, one perched flying ~~10~~ 8±' to another branch to make way. Later New Ad. to same br. & ad. moved to outer part

:42, 4th ad on tree, lower branches - worked up. One of upper to top adult - both hopped & clamber off.

:43 - top ad off - only 1 ad. + 1 imm. left. Imm. 10±' above ad., raven 3±' from imm.

Ford

Gymnogyps californianus

June 12, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

1:32, a second adult was beside the one on Near Roost Tree, crouched flat. An adult swooped in to land on ~~that~~ branch - both adults took off downhill; ~~one~~ 1 or both landed in a dead Ps. 250± yds. downhill; ~~flushing an imm. from~~ ~~about 6 from an imm.~~ ~~that tree~~. 1:35, in Near Roost Trees, I saw - adult + 2 imm. in Near Roost Tree, same in next tree downhill, 2 adults in 1 tree about 200 yds. further downhill, + 1 imm. about 100 yds. from that - so 4 adults + ~~3~~ 4 imms. (+ the "fed" youngster). 1:45, the 8 perched as before. 2 p.m., one adult circled near the lookout (still at 2:07). ~~Then~~ Perched birds as before except instead of 2 adults in 1 tree, now 3 adults in 3 trees, + a second imm. in lowest tree. One of the 3 low adults took off downhill + glided low over Arundell Ridge area. One adult was crouched flat on its perch. About half the birds faced the sun, the rest not. ~~2:20~~ 2:30 the 10 perched as before (4 ad., 6 imm.) - same at 2:45 (very quiescent birds). I also saw 2 on Flat Ps. + 1 adult land there, an imm. try to land there, + 2 adults on Saddle Ps. - so 9 imm. plus 7 adults. Apparently nothing doing at ~~Condor fa~~ Condor Falls - I have watched that area much today + visibility is good. 3 p.m. - Arundell Ridge had still 2 adults on Saddle Ps., adult + imm. - also

Gymnogyps californianus

June 12, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

Flat Ps., + adult atop an adjacent green Ps.. The 10 near Big Meadow as before. Retrogressing - the big bunch was at the carcass only 10 or 15 minutes + many apparently did not eat - there must be much meat left, but why don't at least the ravens + buzzards go for it? If food is close at hand, apparently the birds are content not to leave the area all day (that is, no long flights). 3:30 - 1 adult + one imm. on Arundell Ridge (Flat Ps. + adjacent), + the 10 near birds perched as before (1 adult + 1 imm. crowded flat). Breeze light, sky clear, not hot (75° maybe). 3:45, an imm. was circling near East Perch Points. An adult, crop bulging, landed 30±' above the youngster which was "fed" this morning. The youngster pumped its wings loosely a few times. 3:50, at the calf, 3 turkey vultures were feeding. In Near Roost Trees, apparently an adult + imm. had exchanged trees, + one adult was 10±' higher than formerly - otherwise no change. The "fed" youngster worked up to about 20' below adult by 3:55, + another imm. was on level with adult 100±' away in another tree. The latter imm. was off, + 2 adults had landed 15±' above the perched adult there by 3:58 (3 adults +

Gymnogyps californianus

June 12, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

1 imm. in tree (80±' dead Ps.) SE of Big Mdw. about 300 yds. on NW facing slope. 4 p.m. - saw 13 in Near Roost Trees, 4 with wings spread, sunning their backs (18 total, 5 now in other tree). 4:04, an adult + imm. landed 50±' NE of calf - 2 turkey vultures + raven still fed on it. 4:05, adult walked slowly up to carcass + began to feed. Vultures seemed not alarmed but kept 5±' away. 4:06, another adult landed, 30±' uphill from carcass + walked to it - first retired about 10'; second fed. 2 ad., 4 imm., + 2 vultures near carcass at 4:08, but only occasionally pecked carcass. 4:10, two more adults landed, 30±' uphill. The vultures left. adult + 2 imm. took off from near carcass - imm. + adult alighted in crowded Ps. 200± yds. to N. 4:13, 10 condors (5 adults) in that one tree. None within 20' of carcass then tho 2 adults + 1 imm. 30±' away. Two turkey vultures landed at carcass - the 3 condors then walked + hopped to it. Saw 19 condors, 10 adults, all told, in or near Big Meadow. 4:19, 4 adults + 3 imm. at carcass, some having come from nearby trees. 2± turkey vultures perched in the green branches 50±' away. 4:20, a 5th adult landed 50±' NW of calf. Only

Gymnogyps californianus

June 12, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

occasionally did a condor take a tug - just stood around mainly. 4:22, 11 condors on ground within 50' of carcass but only 1 raven feeding. An imm. landed in the green walnut tree near the carcass, displacing a turkey vulture from its perch there. Breeze absent - air clear. The condors stand inactively near the calf. 4:25, one adult tugs at belly, shaking the whole carcass, pulling back, neck in line with back . 6 other condors stand within 10' but apparently not interested in feeding. A turkey vulture landed at carcass & 3 or 4 condors bounced away from it. One standing condor 50±' from carcass lunged at another with bill the of other took off. One adult pecked at a raven - which flew off a few feet. 4:31, a raven walks unmolested among the condors; 2 vultures stand 8±' from carcass (& condors) unperturbed. An adult chased a 3(?) yr. imm. up the slope 15±', then down, the imm. then flying 30±' downhill. 4:33, counted 10, 5 adults, at calf - still only 1 adult feeding. A 3(?) yr. imm. also fed briefly. 4:37, 6 perched in Near Roost Trees & 4 in tree SE of Big Meadow, & one adult on Saddle Ps. - at least 8 at calf so 19 minimum. 4:38, the imm. pecking

Gymnogyps californianus

June 12, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

each other playfully - no condors feeding. a
turkey vulture walked up to carcass - imm-
ediately two condors walked toward carcass +
vulture walked away (dog-in-manger act).
4:43, counted 22 total condors, 10 or 11 at the
1 carcass. 4:48, an adult alighted in the green
1 walnut tree near the carcass. 4:49 - all condors
3 left the ground near carcass + flew to Near
6 Roost Trees - a few seconds later the adult, +
10 a turkey vulture, left the walnut tree - then
I saw the apparent cause - a coyote was
about 10' from the carcass - the coyote reach-
ed the carcass, then gave a start + ran
downhill - perhaps he got my scent on the
1 calf. Counted 23 condors, 13 adults, 10 imm. One
5 was on Saddle Pk., 2 ad. + 1 imm. in tree SE of the
2 Big Mdw., the rest in Near Roost Trees. 11 were
8 in 1 tree 200± yds. N. of carcass. 4:59, 1
adult was in walnut about 15' above + 50' S. of
carcass, perched on a small limb - I saw this
bird look down, + there was a coyote walk-
ing near the carcass. Another count gave
25, 17 being adults. Two of these were on
Arundell Ridge in roost trees. Twice today in
trees I saw one adult nibble the head of
another - affectionately? 5:15, I spotted a

oford

Gymnogyps californianus

June 12, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

third adult atop (a green *Ps.* on) Arundell Ridge. Another
count gave 24, 15 ad., 9 imm. (5:15). In the
I tree where I saw imm. "fed"; one adult was crouched
1 flat on branch with imm. 15±' below. The
2 calf now (5:20) in shadow, the adult still in
1 walnut tree - apparently no coyote has had
5 a bite yet, but I could not examine the
carcass without disturbing the condors.
-9 It is probable that a coyote also broke up
the feeding this morning - perhaps coyote control
should be incorporated in condor preservation
program; they may furnish some carcasses but
consume many others they do not kill. No change
by 5:35. Light E. breeze. I started for camp.

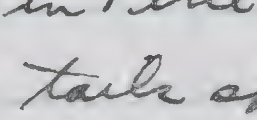
June 13, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

Arrived at Pyramid Lookout at 5:45 a.m. There was a fair wind (20± mph) from NNW, sky clear, air about 65°F., visibility fair. I spotted 13 condors scattered in the dead *Pseudotsuga* around Big Meadow - ~~1~~ 2 trees had 2, others only 1. About 6 of these birds were in Near Roost Trees, 3 to S. of the meadow, & ~~5~~ 4 just W. of Rock Ridge. The "most used" tree of yesterday held none. The condor tendency is to go downhill to a more protected spot for night roosting. The calf carcass was lying as before, apparently

ford

Gymnogyps californianus

June 13, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

unmolested through the night. No vultures or other birds were at or near the carcass. I did not visit the carcass for fear of disturbing the condors. I saw none on the high trees of Arundell Ridge. 6 a.m., 3 were sunning, 2 facing sun and 1 away. All were in sunshine, only 1 crouched flat. About half the birds were in top 1/4 of the tree - possibly climbed this morning. The 2 or 3 birds highest on slope were immatures. ~~The only~~ One tree with 2 birds held 2 adults - this was about 300 yds. N. of carcass; an adjacent tree held an imm. 15± above higher adult. Apparently adults have no objection to imm. roosting or perching ~~at~~ above them or at higher levels - immatures tend to perch & roost lower ~~but whether~~ perhaps from poor flying or incaution. 6:15, the two adults in 1 tree spread wings & sunned facing the sun, tails spread, backs straight & vertical. Wings  from rear & curving strongly forward (Plan). 6:18, one relaxed wings to half spread & preened below, then spread fully again. Wings actually held a little beyond vertical, thus: . 6:20, upper adult turned about & sunned back; 6:20½, lower folded wings. Upper relaxed wings gradually as it preened below (6:22) - until wings folded.

Gymnogyps californianus

June 13, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

Apparently 5-7 minutes is maximum sunning time for condors - tired? Breeze died. About half the birds faced sun, others away or sideways +. Scanned the cliffs on W. side of the Sespe - saw that the falls at Oil Well Point was dry; could spot no condors tho visibility good in that direction. The deep canyons in the Bear Heaven red rock still appear promising as possible condor nesting localities. A recount from top of lookout revealed 10 condors in Near Roost Trees, (3 near or below foot of Big Mdw.), ~~4~~ 5 W. of Rock Ridge, & 4 S. of Big Meadow - so ~~18~~ 19 around Big Mdw.! One W. of Rock Ridge was crouched flat as earlier - the only one I have seen so this morning (lowest of all the birds too, so perhaps an imm.). So far have seen none shift perch. 6:55, saw 1 sun front for 3+ minutes. 7:00 - two adults (beside other) now crouched flat on their perches. 7:10, one to S. of Big Mdw. apparently shifted from top of a stub to a tree branch. At least 5 condors crouched flat. No breeze. 7:23, saw 4 turkey vultures soaring - none near carcass tho 1 over Near Roost Trees. 7:30, I saw a third tree in Near Roost Trees with 2 condors (adult below imm.) 7:35 -:40, one dark imm. circled over the ridge + trees S. of Big

Ford

Gymnogyps californianus

June 13, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

Mdw., Four turkey vultures perched in Near Roost Tree. 7:44, this one & another imm. landed in the large Ps. 200± yds. N. of the calf (vacant until now, most used yesterday). A red-tailed hawk was perched about 8' from upper bird & slightly above - no reaction. Upper bird dropped down 6±' to lower & walked into it, wings up. Both flapped a little, then separated. Then one to other again, they wrestled heads, & one went off of perch while other remained. One crouched adult rose & gave a wind bow (7:48). I saw 2 adults fly up to 10±' higher perches in their trees (another bird above in both cases). 7:54, at least 8 or 9 at original positions - two or more in air, & some trees with 1 now with 2, or having 2, now only one - some shifting in other words. Intermittent light breeze from E. I saw an adult alight about 6' above & on opposite side of bare tree from a turkey vulture - no reaction. 7:58, 6 condors soaring 100±' over Big Meadow near carcass - faint breeze. At 8 a.m. at least 15 in Near Roost Trees - 2 of lowest birds apparently crouched & on original perches. It seems that condors show most interest in other condors, & a few flying near them stimulates them to activity-

Gymnogyps californianus

June 13, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

8:05, apparently all settled again - at least 1 adult crouched flat - 2 in Near Roost Tree & 4 in next tree downhill; 12 (2, 4, 2, 4 5.) uphill from the bait in Near Roost Trees. 8:10, 2 still perched near foot of Rock Ridge as earlier (1 flat on perch). 8:17, one, then others, took off & at 8:20 at least 10 condors soared over Big Meadow and Rock Ridge areas. One or 2 alighted in Near Roost Trees. 8:24, some 3+ (3) glided out over Sandstone Mesa; at least 7 still perched in Near Roost Trees. 8:26, 7 or+ scattered for about 1 mile at Rim level over head of Big Meadow. 8:30, with, exception the 5+ lowest perched birds have taken off - the remaining one, formerly crouched much, may be an imm.. 8:32, 4 circled 200±' over N. Arundell Ridge - none soaring over Big Mdw.. 8:37, about 6 scattered from ~~over~~ Condor Cliff to Spring Mdw.. - 5 or + soared from the Near Roost Trees area. 8:42, 5 still perched in trees around Big Mdw. - 1 atop Flat Ps. & 4 rising over North Slope. 8:48, the 4 soared over North Point, then descended over North Slope again - one chased another down. Several returned to over Big Mdw. - at least 7 soared there. One remained on Flat Ps. (8:50). Only 1 imm. + 1 adult perched in Near Roost Tree, & 4 soaring over Big Mdw. - one adult landed on branch of Near Roost Tree. 8:55 - 8 soaring low over Big Mdw.; I saw 3 land

Gymnogyps californianus

June 13, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

in Near Roost Tree (5 in that tree). One imm. gave the backing flaps but soared off when 10±' from perch, then returned & landed - I saw ~~such~~ this happen once before today (imm.). One adult - flat chested - soared 200±' from me on my level. 9:04, 6 perched in Near Roost Tree, 5± soaring about in vicinity; occasionally one landed in tree or took off. 9:07, I saw 2 adults chasing an imm. near Rock Ridge; one adult, then other chased the imm. about 10 turkey vultures soared low in Big Meadow area too. 9:11, 4 soaring back & forth low over Arundell Ridge - one was chased from Flat Ps. & one lit there about 1 minute later. 9:16, an adult landed near top of Near Roost Tree - an imm. took off to make way. 9:18, 5 left Near Roost Tree - at least 8 soared around head of Big Meadow, 3 again on ~~that~~ tree by 9:21. One imm. has remained on a branch of dead Ps. about 100 yds. from where I saw the imm. "fed" yesterday - apparently has not flown today. 9:25 - 3 soared at Rim level over Big Mdw.; one adult, feet down, descended in a spiral & landed on branch of Near Roost Tree. The birds seem always to dive steeply before ~~st~~ swooping up to a landing. 2 were perched atop trees on Arundell Ridge, & another soared low near them. Breeze light from E. 9:30,

Gymnogyps californianus

June 13, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

only 5 visible in Near Roost Trees & none soaring near there. 9:38, I saw 2 soaring & chasing over the Rim to NE. 9:45, only 4 5 now in Near Roost Trees, at least 1 adult. 1 atop tree on Arundell Ridge & one SE of Big Mdw. still - so 7 perched. Two soared 500± above Big Cave. The rest apparently have gone elsewhere - to more desirable food? Breeze absent or light, air warm (80°±). 9:50, I saw 2 at 5000±' level near Old Cabin - they separated, at least 1 heading toward Whiteacre Pk.. I saw 2 soar 200±' over head of Big Meadow, then separate - & I watched one (adult). It soared around & over the Rim near me & at 10:06 alighted on a top branch of Parking Roost Tree. Saw 2 singles & a pair over other ~~peaks~~ parts of the canyon rim. 7 perched in Near Roost Trees (2+ adults). One turkey vulture on the calf. 10:15, now 10 (4 or + adults) in Near Roost Trees; 5 in Near Roost Tree, one on tip top. I saw 2 land - two took off as one landed, then the 2 returned & landed singly in same tree. 10:16, the 10:06 one gone from Parking Roost Tree, & one (same?) flat-chested adult soared to W. of lookout, circled & rose over Rim, then headed S. over Hopper mtn. & beyond (last 10:26). 10:30, 10 11 perched in Near Roost Trees, 1 to 4 / tree. about 3 were crouched flat on perch~~es~~, & 2 had alighted within last 2 min-

Gymnogyps californianus

June 13, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

utes. One vulture feeding on calf. The imm. SE. of Big Mdw. on ~~same~~ same perch, crouched flat. Fair S. breeze. 10:36, a fifth alighted in Near Roost Tree (4 ~~not~~ adults). One left 30± sec. later. 10:40 - 3 adults over Water Tank Canyon; one chased another 3± times; this apparently is in fun for chased bird later behind the chaser with no reaction. 10:45, 6 soared close over the calf and alighted almost simultaneously. (4 imm., 2 ad.). One imm. began feeding almost immediately. Third adult lands 10:47. 10:48, another imm. alighted - + another adult. 10:49 - another imm. Then a raven, but off again. 10:50, 9 condors standing within about 15' of carcass, but only 1 imm. + 1 adult take occasional tugs. Two adults took off downhill, then all the rest, most landing in nearby dead Pseudotsugas within a few seconds. I saw no cause for alarm; one vulture fed at 10:49. Could cattle alarm them -- there were some Hereford's in that meadow. 6 (5 ad., 1 imm.) perched in the ~~main~~ roost tree 200± yds. N. of carcass; 4 in another to SE of meadow (the imm. gone from its perch there). 11:00 - 13 in air over the meadow area + at least 7 perched (20+ condors). 11:02, at least 6 again on ground near carcass. By :03½, 2 more landed. One adult flew at another which flew back over head of attacker + landed

Gymnogyps californianus

June 13, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

again. None yet tried to feed (11:05). 5 stood within 10±' of calf, 3± about 50' uphill. 11:09, all took off again. By 11:08, 10 condors in the tree 200± yds. N. of carcass, a clumsy imm. on tip top. (11 at 11:09½; 5 adults). :10½, 1 adult + 2 vultures at carcass, others landing, mostly 50±' uphill. Adult at calf ran 20±' downhill flapping as another landed by it. A raven jumped from calf as condor approached. 11:14, 3 adults pulled at different areas - a raven + vulture scuttled + edged around them. :15½, 2 ad. + 2 imm. about 6' from carcass + 1 raven apparently feeding. The condors stood around, occasionally pecking or wrestling heads, with one another. The raven fed, 3 condors standing 6±' away facing downhill, backs to carcass. Raven left (11:19) leaving the 4 condors. At least 13 perched in Near Roost Trees. 11:20 - all off suddenly again leaving no birds at carcass. :20½, 2 turkey vultures alighted by calf. 11:25, 2 condors landed 30±' downhill from carcass, then others. One imm. began feeding almost immediately. The 2 vultures stood about 6' away from condors, quietly. 11:28, at least 6 (3 ad.) within about 8' of calf, one imm. about 50' downhill, quiet. :29, 1 adult + this imm. took off - others seem to stand alert but not feeding. 11:32, 8 or 9 condors standing near carcass, most

ford

Gymnogyps californianus

June 13, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

facing downhill, 2 or 3 turkey vultures swooping back & forth over them. 11:35, at least 4 vultures on the ground by carcass - they scrambled with one another but condors paid no attention. 11:40, an adult & imm. standing by carcass, 3 ~~7~~ other imm. +1 adult 10±' away; 3 turkey vultures standing 5±' from condors - adult taking an occasional bite of calf, apparently at belly. 11:46, 2 ad., 3 imm., 1 raven, & 2 turk. vult. at calf - only 1 adult apparently feeding. 11:49, another adult alighted 8±' from calf, then 3± other condors nearby. Another imm., then adult, about 11:50 1/2. One imm. pecked at another & it recoiled, flapping. 11:52, an adult took off downhill & collided with another soaring past - the second landed, ~~dropping~~ dropping 10±'. 11:54, about 9 condors around the carcass but not over 2 feeding - One imm. landed 100±' uphill & walked down to carcass. One imm. took off downhill. 11:56, an adult landed 30±' uphill from bait. One imm. flew twice at another, driving it back. 11:58, at least 10 condors standing around & obscuring carcass from my sight, but 1 or 2 occasionally feeding. One tugged, raising a hind leg of calf, 6+ successive times about one tug per second. 12:00 - the leg given 11 similar tugs. One adult flew at another, again & again. The attacked one hopped

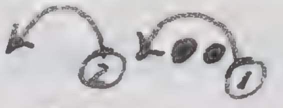
Gymnogyps californianus

June 13, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

up 4±', flapping, each time, turning in air, & was driven 70±' downhill. This left 11 at carcass, at least 4 adults. One adult tugged at head area, another at upper hind leg. 12:04-14 on ground, at least 6 adults - no ravens or buzzards. Occasionally one flew or ran at another, bill extended sometimes, & there was a scrambling & flapping for a few seconds. One adult ran at another - the other fled & took off downhill. An imm. tugged at upper foreleg. At least 3 perched in Near Roost Trees & 1 in tree SE of Big Mdw. 12:12 - 7 visible perched; at least $\overset{13}{12}$ near carcass but only 2 or 3 close enough to feed. A group of 4 stood quietly about 50' downhill from bait - others up to 10' or more uphill from it. 12:16, 11 near carcass; one adult took off downhill. One adult snapped, flinging forward neck & bill, at another walking past - the latter jumped & flapped, & 4 downhill condors jumped & recoiled too. 12:18, an imm. took off leaving only 7 visible near bait but only 3± close enough to feed & none apparently feeding. One adult walked 10 paces downhill, 2 paces per second, & snapped at a standing condor which threw wings up & jumped, as usual. 12:23, 8 around carcass but none feeding (at

Gymnogyps californianus

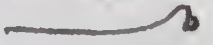
June 13, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

least 4 adults). 12:25, one adult tugged a few times at carcass, then stood quietly. 12:27, one alighted ~~30~~ 50±' uphill from carcass. The birds land by dropping nearly straight down, wings backing - a hop or step or two sometimes taken just after striking ground (not a decelerating run). 12:30, at least 7 near bait - 3 turkey vultures landed near it. One imm. (3±yr.), crouched on heels, grabbed with bill + took 19 quite regularly-spaced tugs (about ~~½ or~~ 1 sec. per tug) before letting go + raising head. 12:33, 10 apparently on ground near carcass now. One adult leap frogged a condor or 2, + another bounced away with a high jump .

12:37 - at least 12 within 15' of bait, about 8 adults, + not over 2 or 3 tugging occasionally, the others standing about, occasionally nipping at each other. 12:41, at least 16 within 10' of bait, one or more feeding nearly continually. One tugged upper hind leg again - several even tugs, then 5 or 6 rapid jerks. 12:45, 8 in Near Roost Trees + at least 14 around bait (22 or +). 12:50 - 15 at bait still; one stood on body + tugged upward with several jerks, + another tugged at upper hind leg. Carcass practically obscured by 13 condors, the other 2 being 30±' downhill (they scrambled

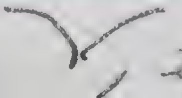
Gymnogyps californianus

June 13, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

together & went downhill). 12:55, 17 at bait & 6 perched (23). Only when one takes a run or jumps at another does the bunch at carcass scatter enough to allow counting. Up to 4 at once feeding. 12:59 - about 6 now feeding. One ~~tugge~~ jerked hard several times ~~at a~~ near belly & finally scrambled away for 15±' followed by 4 or 5 others - some choice morsel no doubt. 1:02 - 19 near carcass, 5 perched - so 24. Most at carcass standing around. About 6 were 20±' downhill from bait. 1:04, adult soared past the lookout (25 total then!). By 1:06 this one had landed near bait, & at least 2 from Near Roost Trees too (1 only, in Near Roost Tree, remained at 1:06). 1:08, the birds were strung rather evenly from about 10' above to 30' below the bait, only 1 feeding (tugging) at this time. 1:12, 2 landed in tree 200± yds. N. of bait - one flew thus in approach ← perch, the other thus: . (both side view of flight path). 1:14, an imm. from foot of feeding bunch took off - downhill as usual. In landing, some birds landed downhill too, some up. 1:16, 3 or 4 feeding, but slowly. The body has apparently not been dragged - it is held to an iron-rod stake by a single baling wire strand about the chest. 1:20, about 12 condors surrounding the bait, perhaps 5 or 6 tugging at

Gymnogyps californianus

June 13, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

it from various sides. 1:22, one adult chased another 50±' downhill - the chased one flew & other returned uphill, galloping, & flapping wings. ~~another~~ 2 also took off from the upper group, but about 19 still left. 1:25, one adult flew at another & the latter took off. ~~About~~ 4 or 5 birds, ~~one~~ 2 or + adults, were in a group 50±' downhill from bait in the dry oat grass; occasionally they nibbled or jumped at each other. ~~12~~1:28, about 15 left, the bait apparently considerably flattened. One walked uphill slowly, the head bobbing forward with each step (every ½ sec.), chicken like. 1:31, most of the hide was being dragged downhill slowly, about 5 condors tugging at it. It was about 60' below original spot & behind a bush from me at 1:32. About 5 condors stood ~~well~~ near the first spot, then walked slowly downhill after the group. 1:34, the last bird left original spot (adult). 1:37, only 1 (adult) visible in Near Roost Trees. 1:39 About 6 condors emerged from behind tree about 50 yds. downhill from original spot, apparently working on part of carcass. Occasionally one or more jumped up flapping, or ~~pecking~~ biting at another. Two turkey vultures landed at original spot; one adult stood quietly 50±' below this. One adult at body held wings up , then

Gymnogyps californianus

June 13, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

took off ~~with~~ with 6 flaps, crop bulging greatly. 2 or 3 landed near the sliding remains - about 10 condors at it or logging a few feet behind. My vision obscured by tree again; the calf 200±' downhill now. Adult left a nearby tree & landed near the remains. One imm. left the remains (1:45). 1:50, two adults scrambled down the slope, fighting or after some choice morsel, then took off. The main eats apparently stopped in rocky ground 200±' below original spot; - an occasional condor part visible above grass there (adults mainly). 1:55, 9 took off from there. An adult landed, then off as another adult (on ground) reached after it with bill. One flew 50±' downhill & landed - one already there rushed it; the flier landed 10±' farther on but was again driven into air (perhaps part of carcass there). 1:59, I saw 3 in the gully 80±' downhill from where main body apparently lay, & at least ~~4~~ 5 by upper part (at least 1 imm.). 2:02, 3 flew from upper group to lower. They each landed downhill giving 5 backing flaps, legs ~~hangging~~ hanging down & head & neck thrust forward. Apparently no more activity at upper spot - lower spot about ~~150~~ 100 yds. downhill from original spot. I saw one fly at another there - both took off & the chase

ford

Gymnogyps californianus

June 13, 1946   Hopper Canyon, Calif.

continued in air for 100 yards, then 1 flew off & victor (adult) landed at takeoff area immediately (2:06). After 2:07 I saw no more condors ~~on~~ on the ground ~~at~~ in Big Meadow. Three turkey vultures landed at the last feeding spot at 2:13. One adult was perched in one of the Near Roost Trees & an imm. in a tree SE of Big Meadow as for several hours previously (1945 bird probably). 2:16, 3 adults alighted in another Near Roost Tree. ~~about~~ These 3 took off & by 2:19 all had alighted in foot of Big Meadow, 1 near where condors last seen (flushing 2 turkey vultures) & the other 100±' farther down the slope. Strange these birds should let a whole carcass lie most the day, paying little attention to it, & then be so anxious to get the last little scrap. 2:25, I saw another adult descend to foot of Big Meadow. One which went in there had a distended crop already. Another adult landed in a Near Roost Tree (crop bulging) (only one remaining there). About 2:30 I saw an imm. enter the tree clump at foot of meadow, flapping horizontal low over the ground (10' or less) in entering the trees. Another (adult) landed 50±' above this clump. Two adults landed in dead conifers just S. of foot of Big Meadow. About 2:40, two adults were in one of the lower Near

ford

Gymnogyps californianus

June 13, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

Roost Trees near foot of Big Meadow (no others in that tree group). About 2:45 I saw ~~a~~ 5 circling over Water Tank Canyon below Big Meadow. Then I saw an adult flap horizontally to a landing in foot of Big Meadow. Then saw at least 2 leave that area. About 2:48 saw another adult fly, flapping, through the oaks to land in that vicinity again. 2:50, I saw 5 circling low over canyon below Big Meadow again. Then saw 3 near or under an oak, in shade, near foot of Big Meadow. About 5 cattle were approaching them; ~~they~~ the cattle stopped 100± yds. away, one condor flapped, & cattle turned & walked uphill (coincidence?). 3 p.m., I saw 2 perched in lower Near Roost Trees, 1 in tree to S. of foot of Big Meadow, 4 or + under or near an oak in foot of Big Mdw., & 4± in air. One adult took off flapping thru the trees from foot of Big Meadow at 3:04. An imm. landed there about 3:05. A group of 7 Hereford's seemed to stand & look at the birds from 100± yds. away. 3:07, two adults were perched in Near Roost Tree. 3:10, two adults over Water Tank Canyon – one glided ~~soared~~ toward the other head on, & the second avoided being hit only by flipping wings & giving a quick lurch to one side, then the other.

Gymnogyps californianus

June 13, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

The cattle appeared to want to walk past where 2 or + condors were on the ground but appeared hesitant to do so - a wave of a great wing should frighten them some. 3:15, ~~the 2~~ two condors took off singly from beneath the oak when lead steer was 100±' from them - perhaps they were leaving anyway. 3:20, saw an adult under the oak & another land; then one adult took off (to E, flapping, then glided N., as others from that area). 3:24, I saw one land at Condor Falls, on a rocky shelf 8±' S. of the pool on next to highest level. Within a few seconds the bird was at the S. edge of pool. It drank immediately - gone by 3:31. Two vultures perched at edge of the ~~highest~~ top fall. 3:30, saw 1 standing in shade under oak at foot of Big Meadow (gone by 3:33). 3:35, one soaring about over Arundell Ridge area. 5 adults, in separate trees, in the New Roost Trees, & 1 adult in dead Ps. S. of foot of Big Meadow (as before) and 1 imm. SE of Big Mdw. (as before). 3:40, about 8 condors at Condor Falls! About 5 of these were in a group at the top brink where water runs over the rock & others on the rock banks above that level. Two were on the S. prominence, 15±' above the brink. They flew to N. bank & lower, singly, then to falls top. 3:44, (~~two adults~~ 3, 2 ad. + 1 ?,) alighted on the smooth rock

imm. alone
: 45, 1 ~~or more on fr.~~ where ad fed(?) chicks.

(1 to 4/tree) (near Roost Trees) (& 1 on SE side 13 ay)
: 52 - 12 perched in dead Ps ~~on B.M.~~ + 4 or 5 in air or vic. Some crops much bulging (so 16 or 17).

: 53 - 2 adults soared 100±' above LO
Four to strong SW breeze (: 54).

: 57 - no rav. or TV at carc. since condors left tho 6+ TV in/over near it.

& 12:00 - 4 cond. circ. near bait - at least 3 landed in M R.T's. 2 shifted from 1 tree to a lambell one.

(4 ad. + 6 imm.)
12:05, 10 perched in 3 dead Ps. to N± of carcass, 2, 3, + 5 / tree, + 3 circ. 300±' over Sandstone M. ~~11th~~ 11th bird (imm.) as at 11:45 but crouched flat on branch.

12:15 - all these 11 quiet as before. Four adults, feet down, from Arundell Ridge vicinity sw. back + forth near carc. but didnt land. a 6th c (ad.) in most used dead Ps.

12:30 - 11 perched as before, 1 (from tree with 3) gone; none at ~~or~~ carcass. Two imm. + 1 adult were crouched flat. Breeze lite to f.

Gymnogyps californianus

June 13, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

about 50 yds. back from edge of N. Arundell Cliffs about opposite Greta's nest - ~~they~~ 2 took off after about 1 minute leaving the ? (possible immature) ~~this one left about 3:54 - this is unusual, seeing condors a~~ ~~[illegible] not near cliff edge.~~

3:55, apparently an adult + imm. there, only heads visible, but some flapping as if imm. being fed (~~gone by 4 p.m.)~~ I saw one leave at 4:10)

3:45, two landed atop Condor Falls, back out of my sight, but at least 8 there. One apparently standing in the water + 2 others drinking at the rounded cliff edge rather than the pool. Twice I saw one on first shelf below (6±') top brink where there is a pool (2 there 3:50). 3:58, 3 at the lower pool of Condor Falls (the logs of 1941 gone). another dropped down there from top brink, leaving at least 2 still at top. At the pools there was the usual walking about + head wrestling among youngsters. 4:03, another dropped, flapping, from top brink to lower pool edge. At least 5 at lower pool. 4:05, one entered lower pool + sloshed about, bathing. ~~Bo~~ Most of those at Condor Falls were immatures. 4:10, 8 on + around the lower pool at Condor Falls, none visible at top brink. I saw one imm. just S. of pool sunning + flapping wings. By 4:14, 2 had taken off down the canyon (at least 5 left). The one drying wings clambered up rock slope until at a pothole 10±' above the pool. 4:15, I saw 4 (including ~~an~~ 2 or + adults) on the rock about 15' lower + 100±' S. of the lower pool - apparently another pool there. Two of

By 12:40, 3 had left M Rst Trees – I saw 4 tot. in air (3 ads.) :45, 7 perched (2 ads); 6+ in air :55, 5 500±' over Cr. R., 6th over N. Sl. rose & scattered.

1:00 – but 4 perched visible; 2 imm. & ad. in big Ps. 200 yds N calf & the "fed" youngster as before, standing.

1:00 – ad. low ov. Rock Ridge – cr. bldg., feet dan. – rose to 4500±'; then desc. & lit in ~~the~~ M. Rst T ~ (1:09).

1:15 – this ad., 1 imm. in tree where 6 were, & "fed" imm. the only perched ws. – no rav. or other birds at carc. By 1:20, two imms. joined ad. in M. R.T. & one ad. in tree nr. carc. One soon nr. wh. Cl.

Gymnogyps californianus

June 13, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

these were between the brush + potholed cliff - 2 adults flew from there, flapping, at 4:18. I then saw 2 sunning backs near edge of brush at this lowest visible level. At 4:20, two still at the "Log Pool". One slashed in the pool for 15± sec., then walked 50±' S. on the open rock, the other following. These, + the other drying wings there, all immatures. The last bather spread wings, back to sun (4:23). Three still perched at lowest level at brush edge. 4:27, two more at "Log Pool" (the pool 20±' below highest brink). 4:32, an adult landed at "Log Pool" and bathed. Two more ~~adults~~ condors landed at S. side of that pool at 4:35 - the first to land jumped up to a 6±' higher perch as second landed. 4:36, the second (imm.) stood at pools edge on sunny side (N. half in shade). This bird bathed about 4:38, then took off down canyon (4:39). 4:40, I counted about 9 around the Condor Falls, 2 or 3 having landed on rock points there. Two of these had wings spread, sunning backs, + others were in sunshine. One flew from the top S. perch point + landed 30±' S. of "Log Pool" - about 1 minute later it went to pool edge + walked in, taking a 10± sec. bath. Then it stood at S. edge of pool + ruffled up its feathers. One drying near pool flapped hard 6± times, then folded wings. On Near Roost

Gymnogyps californianus

June 3, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

Twice an adult sunned its back - instead of spreading wings parallel to branch, the bird turned so that wings were perpendicular to sun rays although this required a clumsy footing, the perch branch passing through the tail (branch pointed nearly at sun). 4:55, 4 sunning backs at Condor Falls area; 1 at "Log Pool" (gone 4:57). 5 p.m., 3 about 60' S. of the center or "Log Pool"; 2 (adult + imm.) with wings spread, backs to sun. On SE side of lowest pool there were 3, one on the sandstone slope, 1 with wings spread facing the sun (all immatures). 5:03, two more sunning backs came into view near lowest pool. An adult, wings spread, walked up to where an imm. sunned & the imm. flew down ~~remained~~ toward pool. All of the center ("Log") pool now in shadow. 5:08, at one point about 200' S. of "Log Pool" on a rounded sandstone ~~edge~~ slope, 3 immatures sunned backs, wings outspread, within about 5' of one another. These birds were only 6 to 10' from the brush line. All 3 half-folded wings at 5:11. 5:13, the sunset line was about to cross these 3 and 5 other condors 100±' N. of them. Two of these climbed to very edge of brush, shaking it in fact, + spread wings as if trying to get out of shadow. One took off + other folded wings when shadow overtook him.

Gymnogyps californianus

June 13, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

Another imm. climbed atop a rock between the brush & cliff & sunned back. One, soaring, landed 20±' from top brink in shade; about 2 minutes later it soared down canyon. One sunner kept wings spread until sunset shadow was over its head. 5:30, I could spot none at Condor Falls or Arundell Ridge; one ~~as~~ in pothole over
1 Big Cave, ~~areas~~. One In Near Roost Trees, one adult was in top tree & 2 ~~six~~ (1 imm.?) in separate trees near foot of Big Meadow; adult S. of foot of meadow & imm. SE of it were as before, so 5 visible perched near Big Meadow. Then I visited the site of the feeding. I saw 2 adults in Near Roost Tree at 5:50 as I passed, & an imm. in a tree 200± yds. down the slope from them. At the stake where calf was I found ~~an~~ a trampled scuffed area about 12' in diameter, quite conspicuous, the stake being at S. edge (and 20±' from tree). I found 4 unbroken ribs, 2 knuckle bones; 9 ~~six~~ unbroken vertebra, & 3 hoof sheaths in ~~the~~ the beaten area. Also perhaps 30 scraps of skin with ~~hide~~ hair on, up to 4" long, numerous tufts of hair, one primary, 2 back feathers, 6 ~~3~~± smaller feathers, & 20± pieces of down. The bones were as clean as if cooked & the meat eaten but of bloody color. The carcass had been pulled out of my wire noose-~~stake~~ stake still intact & firm. The dragged trail

Gymnogyps californianus

June 13, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

downhill was plainly evident. The stake area smelled unpleasant but not strong. about 10' down the slope was a shin bone & another 5±" bone, & a white feather. about 100' ~~100~~ down was a humerus - up to then I found perhaps 8 feathers too. The slope was about 20° over somewhat rocky ground. Then a kneecap (?) & ~~ca~~ also entire, about 150' ~~100~~' down. Then hair tufts, half a secondary, & a humerus & femur about 200' down where the bunch stopped for a while. That area was beaten about 20' wide, more or less, & a knee(?) joint (epiphyses of both bones, still attached) was at N. edge of this area - all bones clean of meat. Then down a steeper shallow gully, marked by occasional ~~hai~~ hair tufts & feathers, about ~~80', not~~ about 80' more ~~to~~ the upper teeth of one side, their bone disarticulated neatly from the skull. Then small tufts of feathers & down, ~~&~~ until at a walnut tree about 400' below the stake. I had to stoop to go under, the solid cover being only about 4' above the ground. Near tree trunk were 2 more large leg bones, ends gone as before. I found a rib & one bone of skull top also near the tree trunk. ~~The trunk was of~~ The trail then veered to N., the Arundell Spring trail being just below ~~this~~ tree & the "fall line" being cluttered with brush. I found a knuckle bone & scapula about

Gymnogyps californianus

June 13, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

50' NE of the skull top. The trail grew fainter, but led alongside the trunk of a live oak 50±' downhill from the Arundell Trail, passing under the overhanging oak (branches about 4' above ground). It was below this oak, at least 500' downhill from ~~the~~ stake, where I saw 1 to 3 condors in shade of oak. The drag marks continued on down through a space between dead branches, & about 50' below oak was a large vertebra. This was in a shallow gully again, so guided by down & feather fragments I found the hide ~~at~~ about 8' from the edge of dense brush about 200' below the oak (25% slope). The hide stunk & had lost hair by slipping & by friction but was essentially entire. The muzzle skin was gone to about 3" forward of eyes and both ears eaten off flush. This head skin was turned inside out - I had difficulty righting it. There were no holes in neck, but foreleg skin on right side ~~gone at~~ completely gone at body; on left ~~side~~ side much leg skin was present but pulled in as if from the inside. This part of hide was right side out. ~~in gener~~ Then a 3" diameter hole in belly, one 1" hole where a testicle removed, and a 4" hole at anus through which the inside out hind-legs skin & tail were pulled,

Gymnogyps californianus

June 13, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

bird. about 4" of tail tips was not pulled through. The skin of one hind leg was complete to apparently near the hoof; the other was ripped from vicinity of ankle down, then whole for about 2", then ripped off at about hoof height. What a wonderful job of practically incisionless skinning, removing all meat + bones. I found no internal organs at all. Hide was not fleshed any more closely than a run-of-the-mill human skinning job. Walking uphill I found the inside of one hoof near the first tree the birds went under, a vertebra 50' up from that, then a rib 30±' further. At 7:15 I saw the adult S. of foot of meadow was flat on its perch, + imm. to SE was still there but on limb of a larger tree (where one "fed" yesterday; same?). The fact that condors don't rip up the hide more seems to indicate a lack of ability to do so — thus young or tender animals are preferred. Perhaps yesterday the calf ~~was~~ was not ripe enough for tenderness, + it was only sampled — once the meat starts coming, the birds close in. Comparing results be~~th~~tween this carcass + one cut open would show if this were so. At 7:25 saw the 2 were gone from Near Roost Tree; one was in tree 200± yds. down the slope, + another (adult?) 100± yds. beyond.

Gymnogyps californianus

June 14, 1946 Nr. Whiteacre Pk., Calif.

Clear day. At 6:30 I left road on Whiteacre Pk. trail & at 7:10 was on top of the cliff about 1 mile S. of Whiteacre Pk. There was a fair NW breeze then, about 70°F. My plan was to watch #13 nest (?) area further. I saw one adult about 1/4 mile to W. of me in the green *Pseudotsuga* where I had seen the adults roosting before. This one was on a long dead branch about 20' from top of 60' tree, about 10' out from trunk, standing, facing sun. Ruff was down & flat; crop patch was plainly evident and of brighter color than the higher magenta spot. The pink ankles of this bird showed well. I could not see the other adult, but intervening rock ledges obscured my view of many roost trees. The tree had 2 stub branches much whitewashed & the base of a long dead one - most whitened was a 2±' long stub about 3 or 4" in diameter about 10' from tree top. 7:25, the adult stretched left wing slowly out, down, & back, & bowed forward, then raised both wings before folding them, then straightened up - all very slowly. 7:28, adult sunned its back, wings out (facing away from me). Fair steady breeze continued. Wings folded at 7:32. Wrist ~~is~~ was at about eye level, bending primary horizontal, in sunning pose. Then occasional preening. 7:55, stretched right wing down & back, raising folded wing high before laying it on

st-roost stretching

Gymnogyps californianus

June 14, 1946 Nr. Whitacre Pk., Calif.

side again, the bird remaining leaning forward in horizontal position for 10± seconds before raising up again. 8:12, adult stretched left wing down & back, the leading edge making a straight line. Then nibbled at rump area (about 4 nibbles/sec.). Then slowly turned around by stepping around on the jiggling branch. Then crouched flat, preened in scapular area, eye apparently closed, for 5± sec., then stood again & opened bill twice successively for 3± sec. period. This bird is not the puffy cheeked one. Crop apterium barely visible. 8:20, adult preened almost continually, mainly at leading wing feathers, nibbling 4-6 times per second with bill. 8:28, adult gave a wind bow, the strongly flexed wings touching at elbows above the back. Then the bird stood, looking about quickly. Then 2 "yawns", as if clearing throat. Then another bow, the wings but little flexed but again touching at elbows. Then wings ~~folded~~ folded then cocked again, & the bird sprang from perch down hill, commencing to flap at once. Flaps 2/sec. It flap glided out of my sight into a canyon 3/8 mile toward Whitacre Pk. & apparently alighted there. 8:37, I heard flaps & saw an adult ~~the bird~~ land on the sunlighted ledge at S. side of nest(?) entrance. about 30 sec. later it jumped & flapped up to an 8± higher ledge about 6' from cliff top, & stood

Gymnogyps californianus

June 14, 1946 Nr. Whiteacre Pk., Calif.

in shade there. 8:45, a second adult landed, on the lower ledge, & 30± sec. later it climbed to the other bird. I saw now ~~that~~ the first to land there was "Puffy Cheeks", the second doubtless the one I had watched on the tree. The two stood together, & 1 nibbled the others head. Call "Puffy ~~Cheeks~~ Cheeks" "A", the other "B". 8:50, both standing quietly in shade, nearly facing, & within touching distance. "A" probably came from a roost tree out of my sight while "B" was hidden in canyon. 8:53, "B" crouched flat at cliff edge alongside of "A", the latter standing, both facing in. This perch ledge was about 6' wide at most & of smooth tan sandstone. 8:55, "A" was gone - in the nest I suppose. 8:57, an adult soared 100±' above the Rim near me. Breeze less than earlier - light from S. now, sometimes calm. 8:59, 2 adults soared near Whiteacre Pk.. At 9:19, "B" stood up, still in shade. 9:28, "A" left the nest, soared out over Deer meadow, & began to circle & rise. 9:29½, "B" left the ledge & joined "A". By feathers missing, "A" definitely identified as "Puffy Cheeks". Breeze light from S. - very light. They did not rise over the Rim so probably went westward. I started back toward Hopper Canyon. At 10:38, near head of the canyon, I saw 4 adults 200±' over the Rim near me, then 7

oford

Gymnogyps californianus

June 14, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

condors, circling & rising. They rose to 800±' above the Rim, then scattered - at least 3 of these headed east & were over White Cliffs at 10:44. At 10:50 I was back at the road. Breeze light or absent. Then I drove to head of the tractor trail & hiked down to the creek below Big Cove (arrived 12:00). Then on to Condor Falls (arrived 12:30). At 12:30 I saw 1 cond in a green Ps. near Flat Ps.. The falls was running a steady clear stream. ~~Th~~ This falls area has 3 main levels, each having a flat rock area & a good pool. The top pool is about 5 x 9', shallow at the edges, but perhaps 20" at deepest (large rocks make bottom irregular). Where I saw 4± condors yesterday the water was only 1-2" deep, then trickled through the moss down the rock slope. About 20' below this was the ~~second~~ center level having two pothole pools in a flattish space about ~~50'~~ 30' long & 20' wide. The lower of these pools, about 1 ft. from cliff edge, ~~so~~ was where I saw condors bathe & drink yesterday. This pool was about 5 x 12' & perhaps 2' deep at most. The end where the condors bathed was about 6" deep with a sandy bottom. About 20' lower was the lowest ~~la~~ pool, a nearly circular one about 10' in diameter on a flat place about 15' wide & 60' long. This flat was where I saw several condors sunning yesterday - Some apparently flew about 100' S. of this

Gymnogyps californianus

June 14, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

pool & perched on the rock slope to dry themselves—intervening brush prevented walking. This lower pool was about 1/3 sandy bottom of about 6" or less depth. There were about 15 splotches of whitewash near lowest pool, 6 near center pool, & 12 near top pool. The most whitened point was a knob about 20' S. & 6' above center pool—apparently a perch point. All pools allowed a clear takeoff down the canyon. Several water snakes inhabited the pools. Lowest poolbed 2 or 3 feathers which seemed to be condor (1 secondary, 2 small ~~2 small~~). I photoed the falls area. Fair SW breeze. About 1 p.m. two adults, 1 with feet down, circled 100±' above me at the falls. I proceeded toward Cove Point. Shortly afterwards I saw at least 3, possibly 5, soaring low over Arundell Ridge as if to land there, but at 1:30 from North Slope I could see none there. The possible nest cave at East Hopper Cliffs still well whitewashed—It still appears a likely nesting spot. At 1:30 I saw 1 adult atop Flat Ps. It was still there at 2:30 when I was at North Point. At 2:55 one adult soared over me near North Ridge. About 3:15 I reached road & drove to camp. A very warm day it appears. Drove to Parking Place & saw from there an adult in Near Roost Tree, an imm. in dead tree below Big Meadow, & another imm. atop a stub about 100 yds. from where the imm. was perched most of last 2 days — the

Gymnogyps californianus

June 14, 1946 Fillmore, Calif.

same, I believe. I continued on to Fillmore. There I talked with Lawrence Peyton. He said that when in Lower California at Melling Ranch recently, he inquired about condors but ~~was~~ found ~~only~~ that no condors had been seen for years.

June 16, 1946 S. Ventura Co., Calif.

Drove from Fillmore via Chatsworth to Topanga to visit W. Lee Chambers. Chambers went with me to visit the area where he saw condors many years ago. This spot was a falls in Escondido Canyon, perhaps 2 miles up from the ocean. A rough dirt road extends up the canyon to about 1/4 mile below the falls. Chambers visited this area in 1897 first, & last in 1900. He was told of the place by Harry Rising (now of Los Angeles), & they used to visit there long ago when the area was almost uninhabited, by hiking, riding bicycles, or driving a rig. The falls was barely running - but clear water. It was about 300' from lowest pool to the top brink, & top falls was about 100' vertical. The rock was a hard clay - locally called "lime rock". The condors perched on the high crags near the falls, & one young bird was said to have

Gymnogyps californianus

June 16, 1946 S. Ventura Co., Calif.

been taken from a cave in these cliffs (this bird to Soldier's Home, WLC believes). The ocean is visible down canyon from near falls top. There is brush - no trees - near falls top, so only rock perches. WLC did not know of condors drinking & bathing in such places until told by Pemberton. I took a distant photo of the falls - it appears somewhat like Sesquoc Falls on a smaller scale. WLC said that was about the only ~~and~~ canyon where any quantity of water flowed all year round - in the old days the flow was much greater than now, Chambers said. Rising visited the area more than WLC & should have more dope on it. Chambers recalls a maximum of 7 condors there though he had no notes on this. WLC said the condors apparently were not molested or shot in this falls area. The country surrounding was settled about 50 years ago, WLC said. There was a cattle ranch up the canyon from the falls. Chambers never saw a condor on the ocean shore tho he hiked the beach from Santa Monica & collected eggs on the coastline (Bald eagle at Pt. Dume). WLC said at least 3 eggs were taken in the Santa Monica april 11, 1900 – egg brought by little girl to WLC store – PM mtg.

[illegible]

H E Eising – 151 N. Vermont, LA
Drexel 3391

Gymnogyps californianus

June 16, 1946 S. Ventura Co., Calif.

mts.. One now in Law collection (at Univ. of Calif.), one in England. April 11, 1900, an egg was brought to WLC's store in Santa Monica by a "little girl". Jack Henry shot a condor in Las Flores Canyon (on or near Henry Ranch). WLC said the area N. of Santa Monica Mts. formerly had many cattle, & condors were seen "all over" that country. Chambers believes the depredations of hunters have been very important in the decimation of the condor - he was long in the sporting goods business & had opportunity to learn of these matters. The average sportsman is a gamehog, he believes. He said that Ray Cowles once tried to get condor pictures near Lebec. He was "nearly smelled out" by the carcasses but got no condors. WLC showed me a 1917 photo from Denver museum which showed one condor egg - collected by Peyton's, WLC believed. Book reference "Outdoor Heritage" by Harold C Bryant, Powell Publishing Co., Los Angeles. 1929. Mrs. Chambers mentioned that Philip Barnard Philipps (sp.?) had a condor egg - procured since WLC made up his egg list, WLC said. Chambers saw condors near Tapia Park last year. I left Cham-

ceased
1941-
l. to
er. MUS.

Gymnogyps californianus

June 14, 1946   S. Ventura Co., Calif.

bers' place about 3 p.m. & drove to Malibu Lake area to Ventura Co. Fire Station & visited Harvey Anderson (WLC's son-in-law) and other personnel. Harvey remembered me & was friendly. I gave him some photos & mimeo sheets to distribute to lookouts — in his district Triunfo, Castro, & Topanga were manned, & he sent relief men to Oat Mtn. on Soledad district. "Scotty" (David L.) Smith on Topanga had reported condors last year. I talked with Smith on the phone — his identification is not certain but probable. He saw 2 on June 17, 1945, at 6:55 p.m. when they perched on rocks near the lookout; they left at 8:30 p.m. & flew toward Castro Pk. (this late time sounds strange). Aug. 25, 1945, one, then another, perched on nearby rocks about 3 p.m. & left going west at 3:30 p.m. Scotty was impressed by the large size, the "fingers" at wingtips, & the steady unflapping flight. He did not see the white wing linings. This man is middle-aged & usually reliable, Anderson said. Harvey had formerly been stationed at Quail Lake & Sandberg's (~~in~~ several years ago) & had seen condors there (no notes). He said he had

ford

Gymnogyps californianus

June 16, 1946 S. Ventura Co., Calif.

also seen them near Neenach. Triunfo Lookout overlooks the Sandstone Pk. area & should be best for condors, Anderson believes. I left my address & returned to Fillmore.

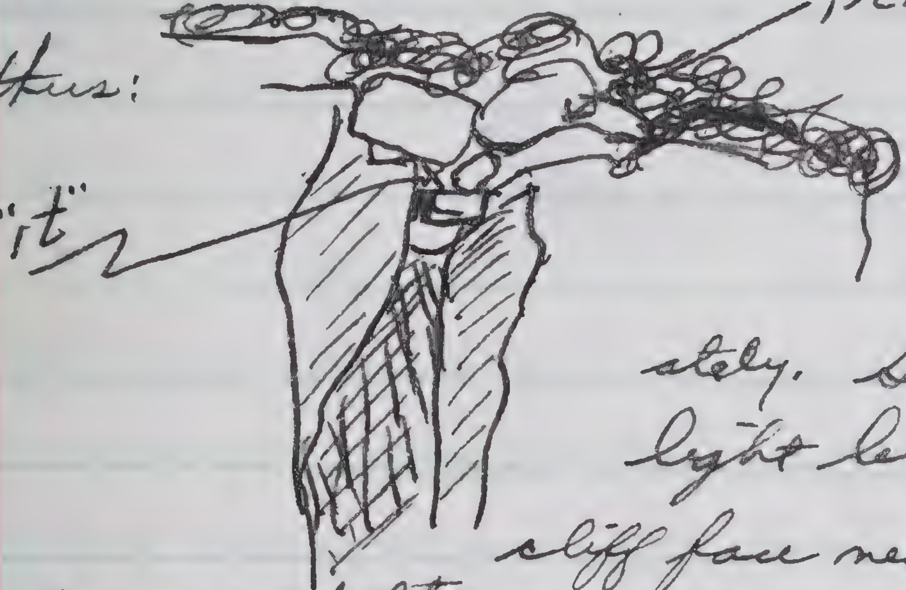
June 17, 1946 Nr. Squaw Flat, Calif.

I departed from Fillmore about 7:30 a.m. & drove to and beyond Squaw Flat. In the Tar Creek area I found that one got an excellent view of the head of Coldwater Canyon, the Bear Heaven canyons, & the falls at Oil Well Point. The top of this falls could be viewed with telescope, & if condors were bathing there they could probably be seen from this road. From one point on the road, 1/4 ± mile before the Whiteacre Trail leaves road, #13 nest area was visible. About 10 a.m. I started up the Whiteacre Pk. trail. After about 10 minutes walk, the #13 nest was visible about 1 mile to E. & perhaps 800' above trail level. I saw one condor soaring above the Rim at 10:30, and one perched atop the highest rock prominence (left about 10:35) on the Rim about 1/4 mile N. of #13 nest. The nest hole was about 12' from the top of a 150±' vertical cliff. The hole was formed by several boulders jamming together in a notch in the cliff. White wash about the entrance gave the spot away. The arrangement of boulders at the nest was about

Gymnogyps californianus

June 17, 1946 Nr. Squaw Flat, Calif.

thus:

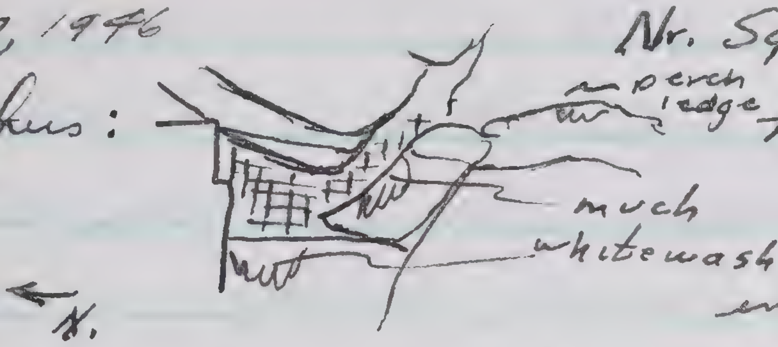


It is hoped that photos will show the location more accurately. Sky clear, air warm, light breezes. On the cliff face near where I have seen the nest ~~adults~~ adults perched in trees, there were two ledges, one under an overhang, the other in a pothole, which were much whitewashed - cliff roosts for the adults I judge. These were about 100' apart vertically & 200' horizontally in vertical sandstone cliffs. About 11:13 I saw an adult flex glide S. fast about 200' above the nest. About 11:45 I saw an adult pass over the Deer Meadow ridge heading N., it also flex gliding fast. Perhaps these were nest adults keeping an eye on things at home. At 11:50 I was set up under a sugar bush about 1/4 mile W. of the nest where I could observe it with telescope & also view the roosting trees. Light to fair W. breeze. Actually this nest would be no more difficult to reach than the one near Oil Well Point in Sespe Canyon. I watched until 1:30 - no condors. Took 4 photos of nest cliff & roost area from the ridge of Deer Meadow, then returned to watching at 2 p.m. The cave entrance appears to be squarish, about 4'

Gymnogyps californianus

June 17, 1946 Nr. Squaw Flat, Calif.

by 4'; thus:



The rocks at cave entrance were all in sunshine at 2 p.m. This cave opens to W. on W.-facing cliff. It could probably be climbed into from cliff top ~~without~~ aid of a rope. 2:23, an adult soared S. low over the nest, then to N. & landed on the lower perch point about 15' SW of nest. At 2:26 it flapped & scrambled up the rock to the 10±' higher point (perching shelf). Then at 2:27 it walked atop the boulder at S. side of nest. Then paused. Then walked down this slanting whitewashed rock (diagrammed above) and hopped down to nest entrance. There it paused, facing in, & at 2:29 walked in out of my sight. 2:32½, the adult stood at cave entrance, looking out. 2:33, turned around & faced in; in shade now forward of shoulders. About 2:30 I saw one other adult soaring close to ~~Rim~~ the Rim above #13 nest!. Adult preened tail, wings, back (2:40). 2:43, the adult disappeared - in or off? 3:01, the adult again stood on ~~door doo~~ the threshhold, facing in, half in sun light. Then off at 3:02 as another condor soared 100±' over nest. Both soared with feet down - the one leaving nest was apparently "A"; its crop seemed greatly distended. It soared straight to the roost trees after one short north zig, & at

Gymnogyps californianus

June 17, 1946 Nr. Squaw Flat, Calif.

3:04 landed in a green *Pseudotsuga* - apparently the usual one. The other adult landed on the perch SW of nest hole about 3:05. At 3:07 it clambered, wings flapping, to the higher point. Then, hardly hesitating, walked down the boulder. It paused as if having difficulty with footing before going down this rock, & held wings up as it walked the 4± steps down & hopped to nest floor. The bird stood, facing in cave, & walked slowly in, going out of sight at 3:08. At 4:10 I could see the head of the one in tree - almost entirely in shade, apparently, & I had seen no activity at nest so supposed the "B" bird still in. At 4:20 I started downhill toward road. At 4:28 the "A" adult was atop the boulder which formed S. side of cave entrance - it was still there at 4:50 p.m. I returned to Fillmore.

June 18, 1946 Santa Barbara, Calif.

Drove from Fillmore via Ojai to Santa Barbara. Left some condor pic's & info at Ojai Ranger Station for the lookouts of that district. At Santa Barbara visited Ez Rett & Waldo Abbott at the museum. Rett said that he had heard from Eb McMillan that he & Irving (?-a sailor painter from Berkeley) had visited the "fief" recently but had seen no condors there. Eb also told Rett that he had heard a sheepman say he shot one the other day (in April), & had

~~Rett. - Ed. & Sweeny to~~ [illegible] one smoke shot

A. Olg.

Fellz - Cold Spr. Cany. - egg well inc. Sold to man fr. Arroyo Grande for $45. Other trip to Sug Pine - to hunt egg - no luck.

ab. 4 yrs. ago - near 101 m. Calabasas.

"The Morning Press" Twenty-Five Years Ago.
This date, 1902. From The Morning Press

ab. 12' down to nest

— ..."Three boys from Montecito made a lucky find while birdnest hunting at the head of Cold Springs yesterday. They are Willie ~~Gal~~ Edwards, Willie Gallagher and Arthur Ogilvy. They had climbed to a bare cliff & looking down the opposite side saw about twelve feet below them on a ledge without any nest, a condor's egg. The egg of the condor is very rare and is valued by taxidermists at about $100.

2 - hunt 15 yrs ago - only on this side mts since egg. Rare 1902.

Cattle three mts. - O fa. no ranchers too -

Gymnogyps californianus

June 18, 1946 Santa Barbara, Calif

paid little attention. ~~a few~~ Some time later he found it really was a condor. Pett also ~~gave me~~ told me Arthur Olgilvy of Montecito collected a egg in Cold Springs Canyon about 50 years ago, & that he had talked with John Storer (who had photoed feeding condors) about condors. Storer was now at De Anza Motor Inn near Santa Barbara. Pett also said the old man in Montecito from whom Larry Stevens got a condor egg was named Griffin. Then I visited Arthur Olgilvy, member of the real estate firm of Olgilvy & Gilbert in Santa Barbara (29 E. Cañon Perdido). He was friendly and seemed a reliable honest man. He said the egg was taken at the falls of Cold Springs Canyon (ocean side of Santa Ynez range) in 1902. The egg was on a boulder about 10 or 12 feet from cliff top. It was well incubated. Many offers were received for the egg, & it was finally purchased by a man from Arroyo Grande. One trip was later made to the vicinity of Big Pine Mtn. to look for an egg - but none was found. Egg collecting was a hobby of Olgilvy at that time. He said that about 15 years ago he saw 2 near Montecito (Baker Mtn.?) but that those were the only ones he could recall having seen on the ocean side since the egg was taken. One of the ~~cold~~ Cold Springs birds was shot and

7 nest. — 2 wks.

Hang on to wattle - kick, flaps.
Waltham, mass.
Bird F.O. bk. - sturdy open type wing end.
~~Amer. Philos. Soc. payed for.~~

3 carc. - fast out, cut open - about 1 hr.

Robt Cush. Murphy - Am. Mus. - secs of S.A.
Condor.

24-34, occ. 40. - 2nd. from film.

Pass around circle - 194 fr. 24 sec.

birds sky first - up to 4.
90 lb. calf - scared off

1 st calf - none came

2nd. calf - shot rattlesnake - 1 bird
nearly (1/2 mile) from calf. Next day - 1 bird came. 3rd. day -
none

up to 2 at time

nr. #13 nest - pair roosted, + seen
with imm. several times

~~1943 - May June 5 + 10~~

3rd. - birds down about 10:30. chased off -
dragged carc. - dawn. 1 on gr. 200 ± yds. - open + off - next day - 1 there; flapped back + forth
rather than over.

Gymnogyps californianus

June 18, 1946 Santa Barbara, Calif

crudely stuffed later in 1902 – perhaps one of those now at S.B. museum. In 1902 condors were rare near Santa Barbara. Cattle were common, however, & Olgilvy himself ran cattle near Montecito. He showed me a newspaper article from "The Morning Press", a ~~coll~~ column headed "Twenty-five Years Ago. This date, 1902. From The Morning Press". The column read in part "Three boys from Montecito made a lucky find while birdnest hunting at the head of Cold Springs yesterday. They are Willie Edwards, Willie Gallagher, and Arthur Olgilvy. They had climbed to a bare cliff and looking down the opposite side saw about twelve feet below them on a ledge without any nest, a condor's egg. The egg of the condor is very rare and is valued by taxidermists at about $100. Then I visited Storer & wife. Storer takes conservation movies, mainly soil conservation, and also slow-motion pictures of bird flight. He is working on a book on bird flight, & noting that gliders used the pointed wing rather than the spread tip such as shown by Pemberton's film of condors. He received a grant from the American Philosophical Society of Philadelphia to make such a study. Nash-Boulden told him where to go and Lee Michel (sp) of Fillmore packed him

Gymnogyps californianus

June 18, 1946 Santa Barbara, Calif.

in to the Squaw Flats area. This was late in May, 1943. ~~One calf~~ Storers blind was of green brush, made to look like a bush, & lined with dark cloth - even the lens was covered. This was in the big meadow just W. of Whiteacre Pk. They camped at Squaw Flat & hiked or rode up to blind daily. One calf was put out & watched but flies & coyotes got it in time. A second was put out about June 5. Storer had been in the blind several hours & had seen no condors; he saw a rattlesnake in the blind & shot it, then as he tossed the body out he noted that a condor was soaring about 1/2 mile away. Next day one condor came to the carcass. The third day, none. The third calf, about a 90 pounder, was cut open, & laid out about June 10. Up to 7 condors were seen in air at once, & at about 10:30 they descended, up to 4 at a time being on the ground. Storer shot his pictures. Then he climbed out of the blind & continued to shoot - as long as he sat still, the condors seemed unalarmed by his presence "40 or 50 paces" away. Storer believes that once the birds are down they pay little attention to the blind, but before this they were "very shy". This last ~~cow~~ calf was killed the morning the condors fed on it. They pecked

Ford

Gymnogyps californianus

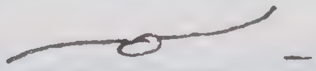
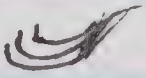
June 18, 1946 Santa Barbara, Calif.

at the eyes and went first, even in the cut open carcass. There was little tearing of the hide. The birds dragged the carcass downhill. Storer walked toward them + scared them off. Subsequently one landed about 200 yds. away + flew when approached but circled in the vicinity for about 1/2 hour. The next day one came to remains; when flushed it flapped much, going back + forth, to climb over the ridge, rather than fly over the men toward Squaw Flat. First two carcasses were not cut open. Storer said up to 2 at a time perched on the cliffs above the carcass + seemed unperturbed. He also saw 2 roosting at the #13 nest roost trees and saw these two flying with an immature bird as if parents with young (nested in 1942?)(several times seen). The condors fought much at the carcass. One would hang on to another's "wattle" with bill and they would kick, flap, + roll on the ground. Storer says he has pictures of this. Storer is from Waltham, Massachusetts, perhaps 45 years old, + apparently a good and accurate observer though not talkative. His main interest in birds is in the mechanics of their flight. By attempting to calculate

ford

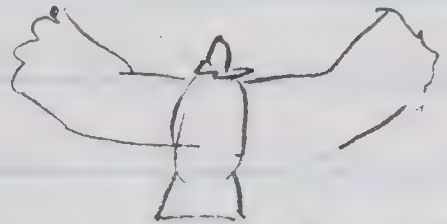
Gymnogyps californianus

June 18, 1946 Santa Barbara, Calif.

flight speed from the movies, Storer got figures of 24 to 34 m.p.h., sometimes up to 40. As to circling time, Storer had a splendid series of stills showing a condor circling. This bird turned 180° in $\frac{194 \text{ frames}}{24 \text{ f.p.s}}$ or 8 seconds. This series also showed the lower wing bent down at tip while upper was bent up in a bank  - this Storer believed showed removal of lift on that side. Some flapping shots showed the primaries curved strongly upward on the down flap . The spread tail he believed furnished extra supporting surface. The larger the bird, the larger the wing area must be in proportion to body because weight increases as cube & surface as square of linear dimension. He believes condors have keen eyesight as 7 circled some distance away & then made a B-line for the carcass (3rd). He believes it is important to have one person walk away from the blind in bird photography - the birds thus think the coast is clear. Storer had not noticed the "wing dips" but instead had noted a forward flexing of the wings at the elbow sometimes when bird was gliding rapidly in descent, & this position was held-

Gymnogyps californianus

June 18, 1946 Santa Barbara, Calif.

somewhat:  - I have not noticed this.

I gave Storer some photos & he promised to send me a copy of his condor notes.

June 19, 1946 Santa Ynez Valley, Calif.

Left Paradise Camp & drove to Los Prietos Ranger Station. There talked with "Stubby" Mansfield, assistant ranger, whom I had known before at Cuyama R. S. He said that last summer there was a young condor which would perch near Big Pine L O & was fed by adult. Later there were 2 young ones. The feeding even took place in the "yard" of the lookout. A mule was killed near the lookout by Koch-Boulden for condor bait. Mansfield saw 26 condors at and around this mule carcass, 2 coyotes, & 1 golden eagle, when visiting the area with another man. He estimates the time as October 1945. He said he had taken a couple of plane flights over the area looking for a lost plane & had seen 2 condors near Mission Pine then. Then drove on to West Big Pine Lookout and met Harriet Boyce & her husband, the former the lookout, the latter writing a book. They were also up here last year. Mrs. Boyce read me the following information from lookout log: June 11, 1945 - one sunning on

- in yd. ab. 3 hrs.

H. Boyce. Oct. 22 – on rock 75±' from LO.
Fed twice — fed once. within 2 yds. young.

Oct. 9 – 5 ~~seen flying~~ – most seen.

Oct. 2 – came ~~from~~ W. – reached 50' from flagpole.

This yr. 2 every coupla days – scarce.

June 11, '45 – 1 sunning on cl.
13 – 4 over Samson Pk.

Oct. 24 – lying flat on rock nr. flagpole. Fed.
Flew off with adult.

Oct. 26 NB. – 7 or 8 seen. ~~on~~ Imm. – around LO
& various diff pts.

Left LO on Oct. 31.

Gymnogyps californianus

June 19, 1946 Big Pine Lookout, Calif.

cliff. June 13, 1945 - 4 over Samon Pk.. [She did not enter condors in log then until October]. October 9, 1945 - 5 seen flying. [This was most logged for 1945]. Oct. 2, 1945 - a young one with dark head came from the west and perched about 50' from the lookout near the flagpole. Oct. 22, 1945 - the "baby" was in the yard about 3 hours. The "mother" came & fed it once. The "mother" appeared smaller than the youngster & flew off before the youngster seemed satisfied. The baby was approached within 2 yds. & seemed fearless. Mrs. Boyce described the "begging" flaps accurately. Oct. 24, 1945 - the "baby" came again & lay flat on a rock near the flagpole ["like a duck", said Mrs. B.]. It was fed & flew off with the adult. Oct. 26, 1945 - Nash-Boulden came up to take pictures. The youngster was there & moved about to various points during the day, but apparently N. B. got no good pictures. Mrs. B. recalls seeing a large group of 7 or 8 this day too. On Oct. 31 they left the lookout - the mule was killed there a few days later. This year only 3 or 4 condors seen - perhaps 2 every couple of days. Last year they perched on the cliffs to W. of the lookout ~~1/4 mile w~~ at times & on the highest point to east. Mrs. B. said that the ravens sometimes flew at the "baby" and it ruffled up & hissed. She saw a duck hawk chasing a condor today. Three

ford

Gymnogyps californianus

June 19, 1946 Big Pine Lookout, Calif.

duck hawks were maneuvering about 1/4 mile E. of lookout at this time. I was at lookout from about 12:30 to 3 p.m., then set out for Falls Canyon. Mrs. B. thinks condors very ugly when perched but beautiful in flight. She & her husband are not nature lovers, but they know what condors look like. Mrs. B. said the Cuyama lookout reported a condor the first day on the job. I arrived at the big pines at head of Falls Canyon at 6:15 & at Dead Oaks at 6:45 - camped there. Searched for condors in the pines - but none. Mrs. B. said that the "baby" condor flapped more than the adults in flying & was unsteady in the air. The question is, was this a bird of the year? - probably, tho it apparently could fly at this early date. Perhaps Oscar's flying was somewhat hampered by the handling he received while in young stage.

June 20, 1946 Falls Canyon, Calif.

I left Dead Oaks at 6:30 & hiked down to the falls. At 8:20 I was about 200 yds. upstream from the falls when I saw 2 condors circling & rising near the cliffs there - feet were up & they paid no attention to me; probably they roosted on the falls cliffs. At the falls brink I found the water running clear & briskly. There about 20 squirts of whitewash on the

Gymnogyps californianus

June 20, 1946 Falls Canyon, Calif.

flat ledge about 15' SW. of brink - more than on my last visit - and one small condor feather was in the pool. No whitewash at pool edge. Pool still partly sandy bottomed & shallow so apparently favorable for condor bathing still. I saw no condors in trees in Falls Canyon tho I searched much. About 9 a.m., - light breeze, clear sky, warm - I started back up Falls Canyon. Arrived at Dead Oaks at 10:45 & Big Pines at 11:30. Left there at 12:00 & hiked slowly toward Big Pine Lookout. At 2:14 I saw one adult descend, tacking into the fair S. wind, feet down, wings flexed, near the bluffs in first S-facing canyon W. of lowest point in the trail (about 1½ miles B-line from the lookout). The descent area was hidden from my view. I continued on to the lookout. They had seen no condors all day. Soon a State trapper named Tegan arrived. His headquarters was at Bluff Camp & he was primarily trapping coyotes. He said that about 5 years ago, in the fall, he had thrown all his bobcat & coyote carcasses over the cliff at one point & that eventually up to 26 condors came. He said also that three years ago two women were on the lookout, & they used to walk to a point

Gymnogyps californianus

June 29 1946

about 3/4 mile E. of the lookout & see a young condor on a ledge a short way down the cliff. The point was ~~lower~~ to W. of the highest farthest bluff to E. of the lookout. Tegan shot a coyote there & the lookouts asked if he was shooting their pet condor. Tegan seemed fairly reliable but inclined to be boastful. Apparently he had killed several hundred deer, antelope, & horses for various State jobs. This part of Santa Barbara county was about as far south as he worked (to ~~Camues~~ Camuesa area). He said Charlie Tant was after lions in the Santa Ynez range with his dogs now & had gotten several lions this year already. The condor nest area was near where Mrs. Al Williamson reported a young condor in 1939 or 1940 – so probably something to it.

June 21, 1946 Sisquoc Canyon, Calif.

Left Alamar Saddle at 6:50 a.m. & hiked down Sisquoc Canyon. At 8:30, near Samon Pk., I saw one immature (dark), with a center left primary missing, circling. Around 8:30 must be rising time. At 9:15 was at Heath Camp. Day clear & warm. Arrived at Falls Canyon.

Gymnogyps californianus

June 21, 1946 Sisquoc Canyon, Calif.

at 10:50. I climbed the N. bank of the Sisquoc about 500' & from there took several pictures of Sisquoc Falls, completing at 11:45. As this is about noon & about the summer solstice & the cliffs face about north, the light on cliff face is about maximum (mostly in shade). Hiked back upstream then & reached Cottonwood Camp at 1 p.m. Fished upstream & returned to Alamar Saddle.

June 22, 1946 Cuyama Valley, Calif.

Drove from Alamar to Cuyama Ranger Station. Talked with various men there & heard that 1 condor had been seen about a week ago from Caliente Mtn. (lookout). A member of the trail crew I met in April in Falls Canyon said that they saw one perch in a dead pine in Falls Canyon the day I left them. None knew of any sheep in Cuyama Valley at this time. I drove toward Maricopa, then took the road to Soda Lake and Simmler thru Carrizo Plains. I saw no stock south of Soda Lake but many old cattle droppings. Then saw about 300 head before reaching Simmler. Saw 5 turkey vultures on a hog carcass at one point. Continued northward through Bitterwater Valley to Shandon but saw no condors. Then visited Ian McMillan. He said the Bitterwater Valley was a place where condors were frequently reported. On April

Apr. 13
3 – 1:15 p.m.
Com. Release

Gymnogyps californianus

June 22, 1946 Shandon, Calif.

13, 1946, with Milton Ray at Carneros Rocks, he saw 3 condors at 1:15 p.m. Eb McMillan said he saw 2 & 3 over his place earlier this year (April) & heard from Allie Lewis of 6 being seen feeding on a bob cat near Turkey Flat about the same time. In May he saw 2 condors, apparently flushed from the cliff, at the "rief", & about 500 turkey vultures. Eb said the dead condor they had heard of (in February) was about 5 miles N. of the Maricopa road. Jennings Vanmeter (sp.?) told them of this one, saying a "sheepherder" had killed it. Ian said Wilcox, taxidermist of Arroyo Grande, shot some condor specimens near McChesney Mtn.. He gave Bethel brothers $10 for one they caught in a trap. Ian said the foreman of La Panza ranch (Jardine) told him he saw 18 last March - the most he had ever seen.

June 23, 1946 McChesney Mtn., Calif.

Ian McMillan said 3 of the 5 eggs taken by Truesdale & Claude Brown were taken from the 1 hole described by Dawson. Brown took the first one, another was taken around the corner to the east; around the corner to W. of the main hole. In 1906 (±), Truesdale was working near Simmler & saw his first condor, heading W. He searched in the rocks in the Syncline Ridge area, then later further W. & finally at McChesney Mtn.. Of the 5 known nestings at

~~Claude~~ B. ~~& F.~~ –

~~3 of 5 in one hole.~~

1906 ~~– Truesd. – nr Sinaloa – 1st.~~

Total 3
~~1 hatched~~
~~1 left~~
5 nestlings , 1 hole

8:15 - 1 ad. atop ∧ about 1 mile E. cliff.

May 15 - ~~Cl. saw~~ 2 - fl. from cliff.

May 23 - ~~one~~ Trues. egg - watched fr. 1 March

Claude Br. - 1st egg - ~~around lead to w.~~ - mother around to E.

~~08~~ 10:20 - at nest. Hole ⊃ 15" high, 17" long.

6"x 9", hard bott., 4" sand. ~~to eggs~~ no smell - 4 feath. acorns. old w. w. on walls. Sit up straight. O at 11:00.

3 eag. nests within 100 yds. - 1 this yr. 2 such whit pts - one at level 200' aw., one 100', 50' ~~below~~.
Faces NW. ab. 300' drop below, v. steep -

~~Garcia Rock – C. Truss.~~ – 2+ yrs. ago.

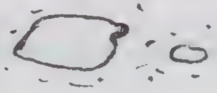
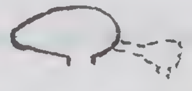
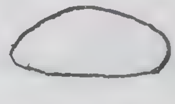
Gymnogyps californianus

June 23, 1946 Nr. McChesney Mtn., Calif.

this one hole (from what Ian has heard from Truesdale), 3 eggs were taken, 1 egg hatched, & 1 was left. The one was left - bird on nest - because cliffs were snowy & icy & he couldn't get to the hole. On May 15, 1946, Eb saw 2 adults fly from the region of the Dawson nest cave - these were apparently disturbed by his horse when 300±' below & 1/4± mile around cliff from nest. One egg was taken by Truesdale on May 23 (year?) said Ian & Eb - Eb said Truesdale had watched the nest since March 1 & that the egg was fresh in May! Ian said that his brother-in-law Carl Twisselman told him of several condors consistently roosting at Garcia Rocks, roughly 2 1/2 miles W. of Gould Hill in Temblor Valley, a few years ago. ~~Ian~~ Ian, Eben, & myself drove from Shandon (Red Hills) to La Panza Ranch, up the San Juan, then up Beartrap Canyon. We hiked from 7:20 to 10:20 before reaching the Dawson nest hole. It was in the face of a NW facing cliff about 100' below highest cliffs on NE side of McChesney Mtn.. The hole was as pictured in Dawson. The cliffs were ledges of potholed conglomerate, & the slope below nest hole was very steep for 500±'. From the nest area one could see Shandon, Castle Mtn., Orchard Pk., & intervening country. The nest cliff face was nearly perpendicular - one could climb to about 4' above it with-

Gymnogyps californianus

June 23, 1946 Nr. McChesney Mtn., Calif.

out a rope, + went to the hole if daring. I entered the hole. It was shaped , 15" high + 17" wide. Inside was a cavern 9' long + 6' deep of oval shape: floor ; side . There was a tributary hole on SW side - about 6" x 10". The floor was flat + hard rock with a 1" layer of fine dry silt. I found 4 or 5 small condor feathers + saw large bird tracks (possibly condor). Found *no bones* or fragments so supposed no chick raised there recently. Smell was very slight + no fresh whitewash - so I believe no chick raised for 5+ years there if ever. Whitewash, old, was 16±" up the walls + had a rosy color as usual. The thin rock at SW side of entrance was broken away - rock 1/4±" thick. I could sit erect in center of floor. There were acorns of Q. *chrysolepsis*, apparently eaten by some mammal, on the floor, & a few *Neotoma* - like droppings. I left nest at 11 a.m. There were 3 golden eagle nests within 100 yds. of the cave - one was used this year (eggs taken by McMillans + birds gone). I saw an eagle go to nest about 1/2 mile around cliffs to SE of nest earlier this day. One young raven nest was about 150 yds. from condor nest + slightly below it. There were two much-whitened cliff points under overhangs

Ford

Gymnogyps californianus

June 23, 1946 Nr. McChesney Mtn, Calif.

near nest; one about 200' away & 30±' below, the other 100±' away & 50±' below, both to SW. Whitewash there appeared not recent. Turkey vultures - 2 or 3 - also swooped about the area. At 8:20 a.m. today we saw one adult on ~~tip~~ top of ~~on~~ the rock bluff about 1 mile E. of the "fief" on S. side of Beartrap Canyon. It took off about 8:25, circled & rose, & ~~flew~~ glided to N. about 1000' above us (#6± right primary missing). Most conspicuous whitewash was about ~~1/4 mile~~ 200 yds. ~~W~~ E. of nest on a 15±' long shelf under top overhang of the northernmost cliff point. The white extended for 10'+ on two separate shelves. Sparse digger pines atop ridge appear poor for roosting so perhaps only cliff roosts here. Two prairie falcons were also near the "fief". We left nest area about 12 & descended to 300±' below & to N. of nest to watch. Day clear & warm, light to fair breeze. Ian McM. says Truesdale's main purpose in taking Dawson to the nest was to prove that eggs taken by him & doubted by Chambers were authentic. The McM's doubt Truesdale smart enough to fake an egg - he would back down if wrong, they believe. Eb said that about 3 wks. ago one was seen near the school near Palo Prieto ~~pass~~ Pass by people at "the school"; & his wife

Gymnogyps californianus

June 23, 1946 Nr. McChesney Mtn., Calif.

saw 3 at his place about same date. About 13 th of March, 3 seen by Cl in Bitterwater, & 3 about a week later. Cl said that Cevan Brown said he saw 6 at Cholame Flat about March 1. Bechel Brothers said they saw 2 about March 21 near ~~on~~ Cammati Ranch ~~near~~ on Shell Creek - in early days the B. Bros. sold Wilcox a skin for $15, Cl said. Ian said that Truesdale told him that the most condors he had ever seen was 6 - so, the birds must have been scarce here even 40 years ago. We then left the condor area about 2 p.m. & returned to Shandon via Cammati Canyon.

June 24, 1946 Nr. Cholame, Calif.

With Ian McMillan & son Donald drove to Cholame Flat and Cholame Rocks. Day clear, fair E. breeze. At 9:30 I started looking for condors over Cholame Flat & immediately saw 3 condors circling at 500± ' about 1½ miles W. of Cholame Rocks. A minute later I saw 3 more about 1½ miles NW of the Rocks near a corral. The S. 3 birds rose & I lost them. The N. 3 descended & 3 were ~~on~~ on the ground at 9:41. They perched about 50 yds. N. of a calf, a cow standing near the calf. ~~O~~ Two condors walked toward the calf & one was at it by 9:49, the cow 15± ' away. One more alighted at 9:51, & there were 4 condors perched

Gymnogyps californianus

June 29, 1946 Nr. Cholame, Calif.

about 50 yds. N. of calf & 4 buzzards at the calf. The cow walked away, flushing 2 buzzards, & one condor hurried to the calf. Two more were within about 10' of calf within a few seconds, but 1 remained about 50 yds. away. Six condors were down at 9:57 - but only 2 at calf. At 10 a.m. there were 6 condors at calf but apparently occasional feeding only, the cow standing 20±' away as if watching. Ian McMillan said his father settled here in 1884 & was much interested in wildlife, yet never saw a condor - he had heard of them through Wilcox of Arroyo Grande, however. 10:15 - still 6 at calf tho perhaps only 1 or 2 feeding; one atop calf, & cow looking on still, & 2± ravens & 4± turkey vultures near calf on ground. 10:27 - no change. We drove to a spot about 1 mile SE of carcass & at 10:34 saw 1 adult take off - this one circled, feet down, & seemed about to settle near W. edge of the flat at 10:38. Of remaining 5, at least 2 adults & 1 imm.. Occasionally a buzzard or raven flapped out of the bunch & landed a few feet away, or a condor ran out a few feet & returned; or one threw wings up & hopped about. 10:45, ~~4~~ 5 condors obscuring carcass, 3 buzzards standing 100±' away, & the cow watching from 20±' away as before. Ian says the cows do no show interest in their dead calf for long, so probably a fresh one. 10:55, still 5 condors standing near calf - the

Gymnogyps californianus

June 24, 1946 Nr. Cholame, Calif.

cow walked slowly through them & the condors parted, walking rapidly 10±' from cow. The cow apparently sniffed the calf, then walked slowly away, leaving the calf; & the condors walked back to the carcass. 11:15, at least one atop carcass, feeding, & all 5 within 10' of calf. 11:20, one ran 30±' to NE, & 30± sec. later an adult walked out toward it & reached out with bill - both jumped into air, flapping. Both walked back to the carcass 30± sec. later. Ian said he was born & raised in the Cholame Hills & saw no condors except one on the San Juan River about 25 years ago & those seen with Truesdale. Then 5 or 6 years ago he began to hear reports. Don McMillan saw the large bunch near Table Mtn. early in the morning - so perhaps the condors roosted there. 11:33, the condors still clustered at carcass; about 3 ravens & 3 turkey vultures standing about. 11:45, no change; at least 4 vultures standing 15± from the condors. At 11:53, one, then another adult, took off with 10± flaps & landed 100+ yds. to E. of calf. A few seconds before a cow had walked among the feeding condors & they had apparently ~~stopped~~ feeding & stood around. After 1± minute these two flapped another 100± yds. E. at edge of a group of 500± Hereford cattle. A third adult from calf joined them, & all walked & hopped, pausing every 50±', to W. about 50 yds. more. Then all stood at a green

Ford

Gymnogyps californianus

June 24, 1946 Nr. Cholame, Calif.

spot & apparently drank judging from head movements. Two condors & 2± vultures & 2± ravens at carcass, saw standing near (12:05). The other three walked & hopped, flapping, to W. further, & spaced 50± apart. Some cattle seemed to be close to the condors - almost touching them, & watching them. 12:07, one of watering birds took off & flew over the carcass, low, flushing 4 vultures from carcass & causing the two (both imm.) left at carcass to raise heads. This bird landed 100± yds. S. of carcass. The two imm. took off & landed 100± yds. E. of carcass. 12:13, the imms. walked toward water hole, & I saw 3 there, none at carcass (nor vultures). 12:14, 4 took off & circled about over carcass & 1 imm. still at water. ~~The~~ 12:17, I saw 6 in air, circling above horizon in carcass area. 12:20, 3 vultures at carcass - no condors seen on ground. 12:25, two alighted singly near the water hole, & I saw 2 others already on ground there. One recent lander flew again & landed 50± yds. N. of others. 12:28, 5 on ground among cattle, within 100±'. 12:29, at least 4 of these took off and at least 5 circling together over horizon at 12:30, 6 at 12:35. Then two descended & alighted 50±' from carcass at 12:37 - about 1 minute later they flapped to 200± yds. ~~to~~ E. of carcass where another was already on ground, about 50 yds. from cattle & apparently not at water-

Gymnogyps californianus

June 24, 1946 Nr. Cholame, Calif.

12:43—only 1 where the 3, 2 at carcass, & 2 on ground 100± yds. E. of carcass. 12:50, at least 4 at carcass—I could see no others on ground; & no ravens or vultures at carcass. At least 2 of 4 were adults, 1 atop carcass. 12:55, one landed 200± yds. E. of carcass at the "water" (edge of green grass). 1 p.m., one by carcass flop-glided to the water & landed 6±' from condor perched there, the perched one throwing up wings & dancing away. 1:03, 3 at water & 3 at carcass. 1:05, one flew from carcass to water & landed with the 3 there; 1:06, one left water & landed 100±' SW of carcass (where 2 still), then 2 carcass about 1:07. 1:12, an adult flew from water to carcass—4 at carcass (& 4 vultures), & 2 visible at water. Feeding seldom or nil. 1:17, both at water off—at least one landed 50±' from carcass. Cow walked up & sniffed calf & the condors fled, flopping, & stood about 15' to 50' from ~~Cow~~ cow. As cow retreated, one ~~followed~~ followed & returned to carcass. 1:30, 4 condors plainly visible close to carcass (5 believed there) but only 1 or 2 feeding it appeared. 1:40—5 visible, & 2 buzzards nearby, at carcass. Fair NE breeze continued. All takeoffs have been into wind. 1:45, one condor was 100± yds. to E. of calf on ground, & one left carcass, circled, & lit about 200 yds. W. of calf. The E. one walked toward ~~calf~~ calf and to it (so 4 at carcass at 1:50). 3 vultures also near calf, but all birds there quiet,

Ford

Gymnogyps californianus

June 24, 1946   Nr. Cholame, Calif.

just standing. The lone one on flat bare ground where it lit, still (1:54). Then $\overset{3}{\underline{2}}$, separately, flapped to the water again + landed among 4± ravens. 2 p.m., one flew from water to 20±' W. of carcass + walked to it (so 2 there). Then lone one on flat flew + was joined by one at the water (2:03). 2:10, still 2 at carcass, 1 at water. A group of 50± running horses passed about 1/4 mile from condors - no reaction apparent. 2:18, one left the carcass, circling + rising, leaving 3 at carcass, + none apparent at water. The last flew was lost at 2:25 apparently heading for Castle Mtn. 2:26, two left carcass, circling + rising, leaving 1 at carcass 2:27, another lit at carcass. A ~~cob~~ cowboy rode about 200 yds. from carcass but condors seemed unperturbed. A third about 100' over carcass area at 2:30. 2:35, two took off from carcass, + 4 others were visible in that area above horizon (6 total). Then 10 in air about 2:40, none at carcass. I saw 5 of these descending again, + at 2:45 saw $\overset{2}{\underline{2}}$ at carcass + 1 landing there. 2:53, three with 6± vultures soaring about 200' above carcass area. 2:55, I saw 2 land near carcass so 5 total there. 3 p.m., a sixth down at calf. Wind absent at times. 3:05, saw 7 at carcass, standing around, one occasionally pecking at calf. 3:15, 2 soaring 200±' over carcass + 7 at carcass (9 total). A steer again walked through the groups, + they

Gymnogyps californianus

June 24, 1946 Nr. Cholame, Calif.

walked quickly away when 4±' from animal. 3:20, another alighted, one was chased off to E., & 8 were strung out then for about 100' from carcass, rather evenly spaced; ~~but~~ but no feeding apparent. Then a clash of about 4 rushing together, wings up & flapping. ~~Then~~ about 3:25 one took off with 22 flaps (an unim.). 3:28, 6 strung out for about 50' to E. of carcass & one about 100' from it. 3:35, 3 in air about 1 mile SW of calf - so 10 total. at the calf area, about 50' from carcass, a great fight & scrambling - two locked together, wings flapping, throwing up dust, ~~& second~~ with great vigor for about 30 seconds, then one off flapping with the other after it. 3:45, I saw one 300±' altitude over Parkfield road S. end. ~~Then~~ Then 1 descended & lit about 100' W. of calf. about 2 minutes later one of the ~~4~~ 5 at carcass left it & ran out after this bird, driving it back, then walked back to carcass leaving the other standing alone. 3:57, 2 now to W. of carcass, 5 still close to it. 4 p.m., ~~on~~ two at carcass & the 2 W. of it took off to NE singly, some holding wings V before takeoff run. One of ~~these~~ 4 landed at carcass again. 4:02, one left carcass & flew off. 4:12, a fourth lit at carcass, & two were circling 200±' over carcass. 4:16, two lit at carcass - at least 5 visible there. A ~~raven~~ raven flew out of way as a condor landed. 4:25, one flapped wings & lifted 4±' into air, then drop-

Koford

Gymnogyps californianus

June 24, 1946. Nr. Cholame, Calif.

ped down. A moment later it took off, & another followed. Both alighted 200± yds NE of carcass. 4:30, these two took off, flap-glided to hills to W., then circled & rose. Three left at carcass, at least 1 imm. & another feeding. Fair NE breeze continued. At 4:35, one with crop bulging took off, turned 360°, & landed about 100 yds. W. of carcass. 4:43, the last two fliers were lost high over the Cholame Hills west of us and seemed to be heading away. 4:46, two, apparently both imm., at carcass, one feeding, were only condors discernible. 4:50, the two off. They circled & rose over the hills to W. of carcass, higher & higher, to perhaps 3000' altitude, before I lost them at 5:10. Apparently these birds were bound for Beartrap Canyon. We then visited the carcass - it proved to be a 200± lb. bull calf which had been dead perhaps 3 days & had apparently died from castration infection. It was limp & smelly. Eyes & anus were eaten out, there was a 6±" hole at base of neck on upper side & 2± small holes in belly. Tail & legs were intact & most of meat apparently present still. It lay in 8±" high dry grass on dry mud, much cattle tracked. I found a secondary & 3± smaller condor feathers near the calf. The water proved to be dirty & smelly, a mud hole 50± yds. long & covered with cattle tracks. The cattle

oFord

Gymnogyps californianus

June 24, 1946 Nr. Cholame, Calif.

(Hereford's) were poor & many sick from the recent branding & cutting. Ian believes that clean farming would cut down the carcasses available to condors. Cholame Ranch runs on a large-area basis & employs largely Mexican nationals. Ian believes there may be some condor roosting on Castle Mtn. It is 33 miles air line from where we saw condors today to Beartrap Canyon - tho nearly down-wind. Ian says that sheep are brought in to this area later in the year to feed on the grain stubble.

June 25, 1946 Nr. Cholame, Calif.

with Ian & Donald McMillan drove to E. side of Cholame Flat to watch for condors, arriving 8:15 a.m. We expected them to come from the SW. At 8:45 I saw 2 about 300' over the calf carcass of yesterday, then others over Cholame Hills, 2 over the hills to N. of us, ~~appar~~ another in direction of Castle Mtn. heading W., & another circling about 3 miles toward Castle Mtn.! At least 10 seen by 9:03. Day clear & warm, breeze faint or absent. This early appearance plus coming from Castle Mtn. direction indicates roosting at Castle Mtn.! 9:15, 4 condors, 4± ravens, & 1 turkey vulture circling 200±' over calf vicinity. 9:20, 8 condors scattered about ~~2-500~~ 200-500' over calf, 2 ~~adults~~ immatures & 6 adults. 9:30,

Gymnogyps californianus

June 25, 1946 Nr. Cholame, Calif.

the 8 in a tight milling group about 400' over calf carcass, the highest an immature. The group broke up, & at 9:33 three were about 2 miles S. of calf & 4 at 500±' about 1/2 mile S. of it. Apparently they are not satisfied with the old carcass & are looking for something better. 9:46, 2 over S. end of Flat, 1 about 4 miles N. of it, & 1 or 2 between. None seen yesterday or today over the ~~W~~ E. hills of the Flat except on route to Castle Mtn. about 3 miles N. of Cholame Rocks. 10:10, 2 adults & 1 imm. circled about 1 mile S. of calf carcass at 400±' after having circled over the carcass. These circled over S. end of Cholame Flats & rose, then glided over the highest hill on E. side of the Bitterwater, again circled & rose, & headed S. - probably going to Ed Grant's, Ian thought. The Annette lookout is a few miles in that direction, Ian said. There were 3 or 4 buzzards on the calf carcass - apparently all the condors had gone S.. We left then & drove up the Bitterwater & to Annette Lookout. The lookout, a rather dumb man named Hughes (sp?), said he had heard of condors & had them pointed out to him in the distance about 3 years ago but had seen none at the lookout this year. The view of Castle Mtn. & McChesney Mtn.

Gymnogyps californianus

June 25, 1946

was good from the lookout. We descended to near Keck's Corner & lunched. At 12:15 I saw 2 over Shale Hills about 3 miles SW of Keck's Corner — saw 4 or 5 there at 12:30. A man named Earl Newsom said that recently the county had poisoned squirrels in that area, & that Ad Grant's sheep (1000± head) were also in that area. He said the first condors he saw here were about a week ago & that he saw them every summer since he had been here (7 or 8 years). One was supposed to have been found drowned in a water tank here about 3 years ago — a man (Ernest Still) was going to have it mounted & the bird was taken from him by the game warden. McMillan knew this story but wasn't ~~sf~~ sure about its veracity. About 12:35, we saw 8 over same area. Then we drove southward toward the birds & at 12:50 came upon 4 or 5 circling & rising about 1/2 mile ahead of us from a canyon bottom in Shale Hills. These hills are treeless & rounded, covered with sparse short grass. We counted up to 9 condors (1 imm.), circling & rising, the highest to 1000±'. Some descended again & we saw 6 at 1:07. One at a time ~~4~~ 5 landed on a hillside by 1:09. A turkey vulture left as first landed beside it. 1:10, 5 on ground & 3 in air up to 400' over them, the 5 in a tight bunch. We drove toward the birds — they began flushing when we were about

Gymnogyps californianus

June 25, 1946 Shale Hills, Calif.

1/2 mile away, & the last adult when we were 1/4 ± mile away. One imm. stayed until we were 200± yds away. A turkey vulture stayed until I had walked to within about 200' of carcass. The food lay about 50' (vertically) above the bottom of canyon, 100±' uphill (15±%) from a barbed-wire fence. It was a small dog - somewhat like an Australian shepherd - about 3 days dead. The forelegs were turned inside out & all the forward part of the dog. The skull was freshly bloody as if recently fed upon & attached to skin at snout. Skull & spine to lumbar region was attached to skin. Sternum & some ribs missing. The tail & hind legs were right side out but hind legs mainly hollow. All internal organs gone, & pelvis & posterior vertebrae still in place in skin. About 1/2 hair gone from legs & belly. The imm. last to leave flapped a great deal in circling & rising over the E. slopes opposite the carcass. All circled & rose until only 1 condor visible at 1:25. We then left the area. We found poisoned grain on the ground but saw no dead squirrels or squirrel evidence - never more than a few here, Sam said. The hide was limp but it appeared that the dog must have been mainly consumed a day or so ago & then reworked today - food must be scarce for 5 condors to come down for a few ounces of dawg meat! We returned to Shandon via Polonio Pass. Apparently

Gymnogyps californianus

June 25, 1946 Shandon, Calif.

the condor route from Cholame Flats was close to the SW side of this pass & the hills on SW side of Antelope Valley.

June 26, 1946 Nr. Cholame, Calif.

Drove to Cholame Flats & laid out 3 jack rabbits and 4 cottontails about 1½ miles N. of Cholame Rocks, on the flat ground, 300± yds. W. of Hancock Ranch road, & about ½ mile SE of the old calf carcass. Started watching from about 3/8 miles E. of rabbits at 8:15. Day clear & warm, no breeze. By 9 a.m., one turkey vulture & 5± ravens at the calf carcass. The rabbits all killed yesterday afternoon about 2:30 p.m. or later - ~~some~~ 2 cottontails since 7 a.m. today. At 9:14 I saw 1 adult soaring toward Castle Mtn. - or rather toward S. end of Table Mtn. It glided over the hills, passing about 3/4 mile N. of us, to over Cholame Flats & circled & wandered over the calf carcass vicinity at 200±' altitude. At 9:34 I saw a second in that direction, & it too glided W. passing about 1 mile N. of us. Breeze faint at best. First adult had #8 right primary missing. By 9:40 the first was standing at the calf carcass. This one had no crop bulge. The second (adult) descended directly, turned 1 or 2 circles in spiraling down, & at 9:43 alighted at the carcass. A turkey vulture

Gymnogyps californianus

June 26, 1946. Nr. Cholame, Calif.

flew off as this second alighted. This was most direct approach to a carcass I can recall having seen - no preliminary "looking over". This ~~wa~~ second also lacked the crop bulge. ~~Those~~ Two more were approaching from Table Mtn. direction at 9:47, & another about 1 mile behind. 9:50, the two adults at ~~car~~ carcass took off when another was soaring over them (100±'). 9:52, 4 circling in carcass vicinity & 3 approaching about 2 miles toward Castle Mtn. from them. 9:58 - 8 seen, 6 in one bunch at 400±' about 1/2 mile NE of calf carcass, & 2 more about 1 mile N. of them. 10:05, 6 at about 800' over the Flat in a group (all adults) & one imm. about 200' below them. The group then scattered, most straggling out to S., & at 10:10 I saw 5 about 1 mile N. of Annette-Cholame road & 1 about 3 miles N. of them. At 10:18 I saw 4 going out of sight southward over highest hill at SE end of the Cholame Flats (as yesterday). At 10:22 saw another apparently following same route. Light S. breeze. Saw no more condors over Cholame Flat so left at 10:30, descended to San Joaquin Valley via Cottonwood Pass, & drove cross country S. to Keck's Corner. At 12:05 I saw 5 condors circling above the hills about 3 miles SW of the Corner. Drove that way & saw one imm. descending near where I saw 5 at a dog

Gymnogyps californianus

June 26, 1946 Nr. Keck's Corner, Calif.

carcass yesterday. At 12:30 ~~we~~ stopped about 1/2 mile NE of where saw the dog yesterday, & 4 condors flapped out of head of a draw about 1/2 mile E. of the dog. One imm. alighted on hillside, then took off & joined the others ~~at~~ about 1 minute later. They circled & rose over NE facing slopes, breeze being from NE, & headed, singly about 2 miles S., then E. At 12:42, 2 adults flapped out of same draw at foot, about 1/4 mile S. of the saw, & also circled & rose. These were 800±' above the hills & rising at 12:54 - and then 3 more (1 ~~imm~~ imm., 2 adults) took off from foot of the same feeding draw & began to circle & rise. I do not think our presence was the cause of any of these birds leaving. So, 10 total have left the draw. These 3 circled & rose, working to NW, & at one time a fourth was near them. They rose to 1500±' above a flock of 500± sheep about 3 miles SE of Annette Lookout in the foothills, & I lost them there at 1:09. Then visited the canyon from which the condors flew. There I found a thoroughly cleaned sheep carcass. It lay about 300 yds. up the shallow draw from its mouth & a little used dirt road, on a 10±% S. slope, 50±' vertically & 100± yds. on the slope from ridge crest. The hills there were virtually bare, the grass being close cropped by sheep. Apparently the sheep had been dragged 50± yds. downhill. Flushed 4 turkey vultures from it. The

Gymnogyps californianus

June 26, 1946 Nr. Keck's Corner, Calif.

bones had shreds of meat attached, mainly dry, so that main cleaning appeared to have been yesterday. Hide was fresh as if skinned today. Hair tight & no smell, so carcass apparently fresh when eaten. All legs had skin inside out down to wrists or ankles, & all bones still attached, the hind ones to pelvis & forelegs included scapulae. Ribs, spine, & all but 1 or 2 distal tail vertebrae were intact. Lower mandible was about 8' from rest of carcass. No internal organs present. There was a large hole near shoulder & another in abdomen. Skull was in head skin, attached only on crown, skinned clean past the eyes. Lips & nose skin gone but apparently nearly all wooly hide remained. The neck, still in hide, was bloody tho thoroughly cleaned & apparently consumed most recently. Apparently sheep was an adult in good appearing condition. One ear gone flush with head, other intact. ~~B~~ This was about 3 miles SW of Keck's Corner, about 1/2 mile N of dog carcass of yesterday. Found a few ~~bits~~ tufts of wool ~~and~~, 1 down feather, & 1 other small condor feather on the dragged slope. The birds which left did not appear stuffed. Saw no more condors in vicinity so returned to Shandon via Polonio Pass. Ian McMillan told me that around the Carrizo Ranch, they were familiar with condors. He showed me 2 ~~a~~ letters from J. Grinnell to W.B. Donnelly (Paso Robles).

ford

Gymnogyps californianus

June 26, 1946 shandon, Calif.

In one letter, June 23(±), 1921, Grinnell asks Donnelly for condor information, having seen some letter from him mentioning condors at Smithsonian Institute. In the other, Grinnell thanks Donnelly for writing him (at M.V.Z.) a full letter about the subject. Donnelly had a ranch near Buckhorn Ranch at that time. Perhaps MVZ still has the Donnelly letter. Ian also had some recorded information he had pried from Fred Truesdale regarding the Mc Chesney Mtn. condor nests. Info on 5 eggs was as follows: #1 - taken in 1907, -8, or -9, by Claude & Dean Brown, in broken rocks around to W. of Dawson nest; it went to Thayer & is now at MCZ, Harvard Univ. #2 was taken by Claude Brown. It went to Price, then Tuft (at Wolfville, Nova Scotia). #3 was taken in 1913 by Dean Brown & Fred Truesdale; it went to More (now dead) of Vernon, Texas. #4 was infertile, taken in 1917 by Fred Truesdale. It went to Bowles & is supposedly at Tacoma High School. #5 was taken by Fred & Smith Truesdale, & went to Stuart of Philadelphia.

Ford

Gymnogyps californianus

June ~~28~~ 27, 1946 Paso Robles, Calif.

With Ian McMillan I went to visit Fred Truesdale. Of the McChesney pair, Fred said that 5 separate holes were used as nests that he knew of. None ever laid a second egg when first taken, & ~~too~~ George Harris, now dead, who had taken 13 eggs (Fred said), never knew of a second being laid. Besides Harris, Shield's took an egg in Monterey Co., at about 3000' elevation, Truesdale thought. Taylor got one in the San Carpojo area, Truesdale recollected with some difficulty. A man named Mathews was a partner of George Harris in the collecting. Truesdale said 5 condors was the most he had ever seen at once. Wilcox collected several in the Beartrap area. Truesdale also heard of condors in the head of Stone Canyon & searched that area for condors but found none; he thought Wilcox collected some there. Truesdale believed the condors would nest the next year if egg was taken. They nested about ~~twice~~ three ~~times~~ ~~[illegible]~~ times in 7 years, ~~he believe~~ in his experience. The adults sometimes perched very close to the nest when an egg was being taken, T. said. A condor egg is described in the S.F. Herald of May 6, 1859, & this article was cited by John Thayer in one letter to Truesdale. T. showed us some old letters. One from Thayer dated December 3, 1909, said Thayer already had 7 eggs. One of December 13, 1909, said that Thayer had exam-

~~G. Hanna~~ dead ~~13 eggs - not saved.~~
~~Shields, 3000'. Then Tayer.~~

|R.L. More

~~Mathews~~ - ~~part. of G. Hanna~~

~~5 Baker~~.

5 ~~birds nest~~ - wilson coll. several

~~Nest mgt. gr. if egg~~ when.

ad. ~~punk~~ nr. at nst.

~~1882 - LA Herald SF Herald - May 6, 1859~~

~~Ltr. - John E Thayer to Truesdale -~~
~~Sept 21 - 1910. Says authentic & that~~
paid $300 for it.

Thayer ~~said~~ had 7 before Truesd. one. Ltr.
of Dec 3, 1909 from Thayer to Trues.

Thay. to Trues. Dec. 13, 1909. Said Truesd.
2 eggs were "not the eggs of this species". Refused
to buy.

Thay. asked to shoot adults - Tr. refused.
Get reliable man to see - waited Bowles -
couldn't get - Dawson came.

T. says all eggs from Mc C. area were creamy white.
Mus. in France - Bowles egg.

2 eggs to Thayer - he bought 1, other to Bra
in Illinois.

Gymnogyps californianus

June ~~28~~ 27, 1946 Paso Robles, Calif.

ined the two eggs sent by Truesdale & had decided they were "not the eggs of this species" [condor], & he refused to buy them. The eggs were larger & had smoother texture than the 7 possessed by Thayer, & they were creamy white instead of pale gray-green. In order to prove the eggs authentic, Thayer wanted Truesdale to shoot the adults & send them to him. Truesdale didn't want to kill them; the only alternative was for some expert to visit the nest with Fred. Fred wanted a man named Bowles, but he was sick or something & Dawson came instead. Another letter from Thayer (~~June~~ Sept. 21, 1910) said Thayer believed the eggs authentic & that he paid $300 for one of them. The other egg went to Price of Illinois & was later purchased by Tuft of Nova Scotia. Thayer wrote from Thayer Museum, Lancaster, Mass. All eggs from the McChesney area were cream color, Fred said - this indicates same pair of birds nesting. The egg which Bowles got is in some museum in Tacoma - possibly the high school, Fred said. Truesdale was spry & unevasive but apparently of failing memory. Ian said Fred couldn't remember where he got one egg. On one occasion two adults were seen with an immature at Beartrap Canyon, Fred said, around 1923. Once he had a permit to collect some birds for the Calif. Acad. of Sci. but couldn't find any condors

May 12 - dead fresh - Price-Tufts had given up.

Apr. 19 - infertile - Bowles

One taken Apr. 21

1st. March 1, 2nd March 6

March 1 -

6

Apr. 19 - inf. - birds still on

21

May 12

2 hatched in Dawson hole

1 broken - in narrow slot - kicked out by adult.

1 - Tr. went to town to get pickups - egg gone on return

up in 1929 - none.

One Thayer had - from about 20 miles from Mc C. ust. - in Lopez Can.

Gymnogyps californianus

June ~~28~~ 27, 1946 Paso Robles, Calif.

As to egg dates. ~~#1~~ One was taken March 1 [1907?] by Brown. ~~Second~~ ~~#2~~ One March 6. An infertile one on April 19 Bayles egg. (the birds were still on this one). Another on April 21. ~~(probably~~ One May 12 & "dead fresh" - Brown & Truesdale had given up for that year & took a last trip & got it; this was the Price-Tufts egg. Two hatched in the Dawson hole. One was found in a narrow slot & was broken when adult kicked it out. One was stolen - Fred went to town to get transportation & the egg was gone on his return. Fred visited Beartrap with his wife in 1918 & saw no condors. In 1929 he went again - no birds. One of Thayer's eggs was from about 20 miles from McChesney area - from Lopez Canyon area, said Fred. Truesdale said the condors used to prefer Navajo Canyon to the San Juan. He also saw them over La Panza, Paso Robles, & W. of Paso Robles in Towne Creek area. The Truesdale twins shot one at "Shandon flats" once. It was about May 25, 1946, when Evan Brown told Fred he had seen 6 condors in the Cholame Flat area. At Shandon, Ian McMillan showed me a letter to him from M.C.Z., Cambridge, Mass., in answer to his inquiry regarding condor eggs there. It said in part: "We have one egg which came to the Museum from the collection of the late

Tr. — pref. Navajo to San Juan. Saw over La Panza, & Paso Robles.

Trues shot one on Shandon Flats.

Wilc. — told Tr. in Coalinga country. Trues. expl. — saw none.

HR Taylor — exp. to get egg — from San Carpojo, Trues. believes

Tr. says used to be to w. of Paso Robles — in Taune Creek area.

Ev. Brown told Trues. saw 6 Cholame Flats — late in May.

Gymnogyps californianus

June ~~28~~ 27, 1946 Shandon, Calif.

John E. Thayer, and which was collected from Eastern San Luis Obispo County, California. This egg was collected on May 12, 1909. - - - - Wm. G. F. Harris, Curator of Oology." Evidently Truesdale gave me some wrong dope - Price & Tuft must have gotten the 1907 egg. At Paso Robles I met Silas Sinton who is in charge of Avenales Ranch. He had heard of no condors being seen there recently but invited me to come & visit the ranch.

June 28, 1946 Nr. Cholame, Calif.

Drove from Shandon to Cholame Flats, thence to top of a 1739 ft. hill about 8 miles S. of Castle Mtn., & was set to watch by 9 a.m. Air clear & slightly cool - perhaps 70° - & fog hung in valley in Paso Robles area earlier today. Light S. breeze. I could view Castle Mtn. & Table Mtn. & Turkey Flat areas from this hill, & the water hole & cattle & old calf carcass on Cholame Flats. This hill seemed to be on the flight line of condors from Castle Mtn. to Cholame Flat on the 2 days I watched previously. Sin told me he used to work at Stone Canyon mine & helped build the road there. It was rough country but not suitable for condor roosting. There was a buzzard roost there, however. He also repeated the story of about 14 condors hanging around Twisselman Ranch one summer 3 or 4 years ago

Gymnogyps californianus

June 28, 1946 Nr. Cholame, Calif.

and roosting on Garcia Rocks (local name). There were some pictures taken of these birds, he believed, by people at Twisselman Ranch. On Cholame Flat I found the 7 rabbits I had laid out on June 26 consumed, & turkey vulture feathers on the ground near them (no condor sign). At 9:31 I saw the first condor - adult with gap in outer secondaries of both sides - coming from direction of the SE end of Table Mtn.; it circled 300±' over me, then headed toward the ~~cow~~ cattle wallow. At 9:34 I saw a second heading my way from direction of Castle Mtn. (about 2 miles distant). 9:45, one adult was circling 300±' over the cattle wallow. Air calm & warm. At 9:59 I saw one apparently over the usual hill at SE side of ~~Cho~~ Cholame Flat as if taking the route to Shale Hills area. Saw no more by 11:15, so descended to Cholame Flat & inspected the old calf carcass. It was dry hide & bare bones now, many bones lying scattered as if by coyotes, & I found no condor sign. ~~I also n~~ The ground at this carcass was exceedingly rough - cow-tracked adobe dried hard. The condors mostly hung around on the *windward* side of this carcass. I looked at 3 other old carcasses but saw no condor sign. Then drove via Polonia Pass to Antelope Valley & Raven Pass. Saw no condors until 1:35 when at Raven Pass, then saw one circling about 2 miles

Gymnogyps californianus

June 28, 1946 Shale Hills, Calif.

toward the Annette Lookout, + 5 strung in a vertical column for 1000± about 2 miles S. of the Pass. I drove on about a mile, then at 1:43 saw 7 leave the ground, 1 at a time, from a small draw in 10±% SE slope about 2 miles S. + ½ mile E. of the Pass. I was at a farmhouse about 1 mile from the condors then, + there were 6± vultures circling the condor area. These birds rose quickly in a scattered group, then headed N. One descended low in a fast glide into an E. canyon about 1 mile S. of the Pass, then some began to fly out of ~~that~~ canyon, 1 at a time, + land on a ~~the~~ rounded ridge near canyon mouth, until 5 were on the ground there within a 30' circle. After 3± minutes these took off, circled, + rose, + I counted 10 in air with 2 or 3 vultures. These crossed over the 1741 ft. knoll there, then circled + rose again, + I saw 8 there about 2 p.m. At 2:05 all visible had headed NW, some 1000' or more above the knoll. This is rolling closely-cropped-grass country, very dry. Breeze fair from ~~W.~~ E.. Met a sheep-herder who camps about ½ mile W. of where I saw 10 condors at a sheep carcass. He said he knew condors + sometimes saw them but had seen none this year. He had heard of some feeding on a dog a few weeks ago. Met the rancher who

ford

Gymnogyps californianus

June 28, 1946 Shale Hills, Calif.

lives about 2 miles S. of Rowen Pass. He was the fast-talking know-it-all type. He said he had been here 11 years & had seen condors the last 3 or 4 years in the fall - at first 4 birds, then more, last year 16, & none so far this year (10 within 1/2 mile of his house shortly before!). I visited the area where I saw 7 rise but found no carcass. The rancher said they had poisoned here for squirrels a few days ago. He said the condors fed on both calves & sheep here, & ~~that~~ he knew definitely of two instances in which they killed calves. He said he shot near them to scare them off whenever he saw them; ~~that~~ they would not attack ~~an~~ a calf unless it was down. I could find no carcass where second group took off ~~either~~ - there were squirrel holes there, however, & an old sheep carcass turned inside out in condor-like fashion. Lots of evidence of cattle & sheep ~~here~~ in this area but practically none visible. I later ~~foun~~ found that the man I talked to was Jack Harlan & ~~that~~ he recently sold many of his cattle. Two Shandon girls, one a niece of Sam McMillan, said they drove into Shale Hills the day we saw condors at a dog carcass there, about an hour after we left, & saw several condors at the carcass, & ~~that~~ these flew at some distance except for 1

ford

Gymnogyps californianus

June 28, 1946 Shandon, Calif.

which stayed until the car was fairly close. This report I believe reliable as to identification - they probably did not see that it definitely was the dog carcass though. Ian told me ~~that~~ Everett Hatch of Shandon had told him of seeing condors in Arroyo Pinoso on several occasions in deer season. Hatch has packed into that country; he also said he saw fewer last year than usual there. Hatch believes the birds have a 20+ ft. wingspread but knows the white under the wings. Ian believes this report reliable as to condors being seen there.

June 29, 1946 Shandon, Calif.

Visited the wife of Douglas, F&G trapper, & she told me he had been trapping on Avenal & Smith Ranch (in Castle Mtn. vicinity) lately. She had not heard him mention seeing condors, tho. I drove to Cholame Flat. At 9:50 I saw 2 over the hills at SE end of the flat apparently following the usual route down the Temblor Range toward Shale Hills (gone out of sight 10 a.m.). I then saw 2 condors & 3± turkey vultures circling over some Herefords in the low hills of Bedrock Canyon about 1½ miles NE of Cholame Rocks. I saw 4 condors descend there, singly, by 10:21 (descended out of my sight). I drove cross country, then, trying

Gymnogyps californianus

June 29, 1946 Nr. Cholame, Calif.

to find a spot from which I could see the birds. A single buzzard gave only clew to their whereabouts. At 10:41 I came over a rise & there about 100 yds. from me were 3 condors looking "surprised". ~~Then~~ Then I saw condors scattered for 100±' along the bottom of the draw – 11 in all, 3 being imm. They all flapped off down canyon, then commenced circling & rising, & the main bunch worked off about 1 mile W. of me while 1 or occasionally 2 circled over me. The carcass was a large Hereford cow which lay in the bottom of a draw. The hillsides were about 20% slope to S., & 10% to N. of carcass. Fairly clean water filled the cattle tracks in the bottom for 100± yds. upstream. Except from ridges only a few hundred feet away there was no point from which I could ~~watch without being~~ see the carcass; thus its location was poor for watching. The cow had apparently been dead about one day. The abdomen was swollen large, but there were few flies & little stench. A clean 4" diameter hole had been eaten at the anus, exposing the intestines. There was a ~~1±" square~~ 1± square inch hole in upper lip, & the tongue was protruding from mouth & had about 2 square inches consumed. Both eyes were gone but eyelids intact. There were no other holes or signs of eating on

Gymnogyps californianus

June 29, 1946 Nr. Cholame, Calif.

this car. I drove to a ridge about 1/4 mile W. of car & at about 10:55 ~~11:00~~ from there saw 10 milling in a close bunch about 1000' over Cholame Flat, & 1 adult about 1000' over carcass. About 11 a.m. I saw at least 7 of these heading S. in a straggling bunch. I drove to near Cholame Rocks to watch the general area. Breeze was ~~fair~~ strong from the E. Apparently today was first that condors had fed on this carcass. The bunch, being disturbed early in the day, apparently headed for the Shale Hills area. At least 11 (counted several times), & the 2 seen at 9:50 probably not with them. This carcass was about 1½ miles E. of Hancock Ranch road. I saw no more sign of condors - or buzzards or ravens - near the car by 11:45 so drove to Table Mtn. top (around 2 p.m.) via Cholame Ranch. From this mountain, one can look directly down on Cholame Ranch & the flats, & one can almost see Shale Hills in a direct line - to go there from here, it would be shortest for condors to pass NE of Orchard Pk. There was a fair E. wind, visibility good. I stationed myself at head of Avenal ca Canyon where I could see Castle ~~Mtn~~ Mtn., Avenal Canyon, & Table Mtn., & look toward Cholame & Orchard Pks. areas. I saw no condors until 4:45, then saw 2 approaching from SW below my level. They flap glided to N. along the foothills NE of Turkey

Ford

Gymnogyps californianus

June ~~28~~ 29, 1946 Nr. Castle Mtn., Calif.

Flat (wind fair from NE). At 3 p.m. I saw one over the ridge on N. side of Avenal Canyon - it circled & worked up the ridge & at 5:10 disappeared ~~ats~~ behind (to N. of) the lower peak of Castle Mtn.. Then at 5:15 I saw one just above & beyond this peak, & again about 1 ~~not~~ minute later. That area is the head of Arroyo Pinoso and is doubtless the roost for this area. These birds then roost in Fresno Co., & fly through Monterey & San Luis Obispo Counties (Kings too sometimes) in going to Shale Hills in Kern Co.! Saw no more by ~~6~~ 5:45. Drove to a point about 1½ miles S. of top of Castle Mtn.. Fair E. wind continued.

June 30, 1946 Nr. Castle Mtn., Calif.

At 5 a.m. I started up the trail to Castle Mtn., & was atop the mountain by 5:45, the trail being good. Day clear & cool. I followed trail eastward then along the crest & at 6 a.m. got a look at the bluffs at head of Arroyo Pinoso. These bluffs faced northward toward the foothills & plains of W. San Joaquin Valley. The ridge was topped by steep cliffs & rocky slopes for about 500'; then several steep ravines ran to northward. The cliffs were tan sandstone, much cleft & broken, with chaparral intermixed, but affording good condor perch points & possible nesting caves. Fair NE, ~~then~~ wind by 6 a.m. At 6:42 I saw 3 condors perched in a green

Gymnogyps californianus

June 30, 1946 Nr. Castle Mtn., Calif.

digger pine (many dead branches) about 500' below level of ridge top & 3/8± mile N. of ridge about 2 miles to E. of Castle Mtn. (summit). At 7 a.m. I was on a sandstone point at cliff top above these birds, & I saw 2 others in separate digger pines. There are hundreds of these trees scattered in Arroyo Hueso, interspersed with the chaparral & juniper, but they do not appear nearly as good as dead pines or big cone spruces as roosts. Of the 3 in one tree, two were in the green leaves on top & one on a ~~de~~ leafless branch 15±' below on the 60±' high tree. The bluffs here extend for about 2 miles, E & W., & are somewhat similar to those on S. side of Big Pine Mtn. (tho smaller & more broken). On the point where I sat were several condor-like whitewash splotches & one small condor feather. There were 3 duck hawks "playing" in my vicinity. At 7:30 one near-adult circled & rose rapidly about 200 yds. N. of the bluffs. It paid no attention to me but sped E., 300±' above the bluffs. One of the roosters was gone (alone in tree), but ~~apparently~~ 4 in tree which had 3, & 1 adult across the canyon about 300 yds. from them. These roost trees were not highest on ridge but allowed takeoff down the slope or canyon. Some bare branches seemed whitened as if from perching. At 7:35, 3 of the 4 in one tree took off, 1 at a time, & glided east

Gymnogyps californianus

June 30, 1946 Nr. Castle Mtn, Calif.

ward, skirting the slopes, out of my sight in next ravine. I then saw another perched, across the canyon about 300 yds. from main roost tree, in a green digger pine - so 4 ~~left~~ departed + 3 perched = 7 accounted for. By 7:45, 2 more gone, but 2 where last perched one described. ~~& only 1 left perched~~. Fair wind continued from NE. 7:50, I saw 8 about 1 mile to E. of me, circling & rising, extended up to 1000±' in a loose group. They headed, straggling, to SE, & were seen below horizon at SE end of Table Mtn. about 7:58. Then two perched in same tree as before, & an adult joined them from a nearby tree - so 8 in air, 3 perched, at 8 a.m. (11 total!). There ~~is a~~ are 300± oil derricks near a small town about 15 miles N. of this spot, & Kettleman Hills seems an easy hop to east. At least 2 of the 3 perched were adults. Two were off, singly, by 8:04, leaving 1 adult. ~~The second~~ The second to leave glided about 1 mile N., circled & rose 500±', then glided fast about 2 miles to E. where it joined another, & both commenced circling as if to rise above the bluffs near them (8:09). The last perched adult shifted to another tree 100± yds. towards the bluffs, & then another 100± yds. further on. In this tree was ~~a~~ another possible condor, previously diagnosed as a piece of wood (a 1945 imm.?). The adult held wings half spread, facing sun, for 1± minute. 8:17, I saw one circling at SE end of Table Mtn. - the route

.ford

Gymnogyps californianus

June 30, 1946 Nr. Castle Mtn., Calif.

out seems well established - cross the hump about 3 miles E. of Castle Mtn., head for SE end of Table Mtn., circle & rise, then off to search for food. 8:20, two condors, ~~two adult~~ both adults, perched 15±' apart, 10±' from top of a 50±' digger pine as before; about 400' below me & 1/4 mile to N. 8:45, one adult had shifted perch 5±'; both on leafless limbs it appeared. Apparently the air routes run just E. of Castle Mtn. - several planes have passed already today. One 4-motor, United Air Lines, passed 3000±' overhead, its shadow coming within 100' of the perched adults, but apparently not disturbing them. At 9:04 the adults left, one about 1 minute after the other. The second skimmed the ridges, heading east along foot of bluffs, & circled 2± times to cross one ridge. I then hiked eastward along cliff tops until 10:30 - by then I had seen 2 golden eagles, 4 ~~prairie falcons~~ duck hawks, & several turkey vultures, but no sign of condor save an occasional whitewashed rock point. Apparently where I saw the birds is the main roosting place - it does not have the appearance of having been used for years. Deer tracks numerous in this area. Many cattle grazing in the Table Mtn. area. Apparently no condor water supply in Arroyo Pinoso. From top of the ridge, Avenal to E. & Coalinga to N. are plainly visible. I hiked back to car, arriving 12:30, & seeing no more condors on the way. I drove to Cholame Flats & visited

Gymnogyps californianus

June 30, 1946 Nr. Cholame, Calif.

the cow carcass there (where 11 condors yesterday). It was now greatly swollen, the intestine burst, & hundreds of flies were on it, but there was *no evidence* of eating by condors, ravens, buzzards, or mammals, & no buzzards or ravens in vicinity!

July 1, 1946 Nr. Cholame, Calif.

with Fish & Game trapper Wm. Douglas, drove around his trap line on George Smith ranch which lies north of Cottonwood Pass area to Table Mtn.. We saw no condors, but this area is rolling & steep grassland mainly with many cattle, & should be near condor lines of flight. I saw 6± old carcasses of coyotes & bobcats but none touched by condors apparently. About 5 p.m. visited the cow carcass mentioned above, & 6± ravens were perched near it, but apparently not eaten by condors yet. The Douglases told me that Duane Hall of Paso Robles, who is connected with State forestry in some way, told them a man named Lazaro Villa (of Santa Margarita) told him of condors at Mc Chesney Mtn.. Douglas also told me that between November 10 & 15, 1945, he saw 22 condors at Salisbury Potrero. This, coupled with Mansfield's report, indicates many condors there in fall. Douglas first trapped in the Shandon area seven years ago.

ford

Gymnogyps californianus

July 2, 1946 Stone Canyon, Calif.

with Fish & Game trapper William Douglas, drove via Parkfield road to ~~sto~~ Stone Canyon, ~~up~~ to NE of San Miguel. At 9:30 a.m., about 3 miles N. of the Cholame - Polonio Pass road, on the Parkfield road, we saw two adult condors circling 200±' above the road. They wandered off toward Cholame Rocks (near the cow carcass) by 9:37. Breeze faint, sky clear, air warm. We drove to head of Stone Canyon & were in the canyon from about 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., & we saw up to 8 turkey vultures at once, & 3 golden eagles at once, but no condors nor cattle. This canyon has a few spectacular rock outcroppings, but not apparently suitable for condor roosts. Mainly the slopes are covered with chaparral, digger pine, blue oak, & open volunteer oat slopes - possibly a condor feeding area at times in the past, & the birds may then have perched on the ~~rocks~~ cliffs at head of canyon. Smith Mtn. Lookout - west of Coalinga - is just N. of head of Stone Canyon, & condors might ~~easily~~ get that far north if in the Stone Canyon area. The old coal mine & railroad to it have been long abandoned. This morning I saw a Swainson Hawk dive at an adult condor over Cholame Flat - it pulled out 15±' from the condor, then circled above it. The condor took no noticeable evasive action. Reference: Nature

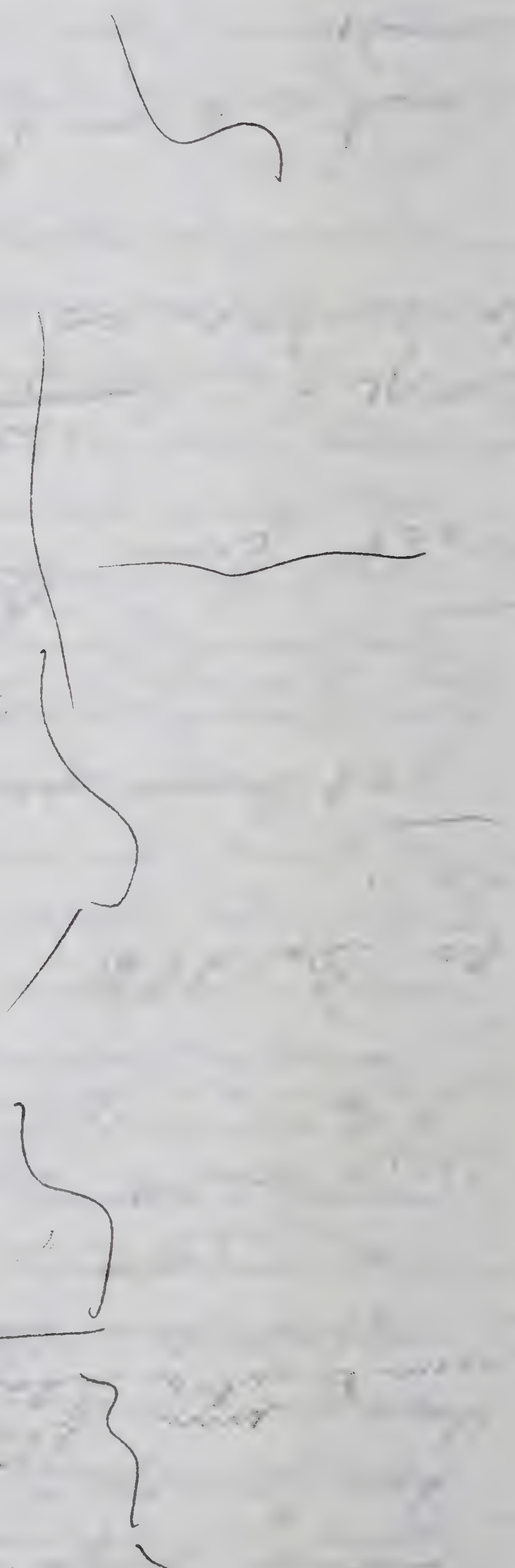
Gymnogyps californianus

July 2, 1946 Shandon, Calif.

Magazine, Jan. 1944, Vol. 37, No. 1, p. 13 + 48, "In Quest of the Condor", by Allan D. Cruickshank.

July 3, 1946 Nr. Bryson, Calif.

I drove from Shandon to the ranch of ~~George~~ Walter R. Harris near Bryson near the Monterey - San Luis Obispo county line. His uncles, George & John, had collected "10 or 12" condor eggs around 1900, said Walter. George died about 1928 & John somewhat later. Most of these came from Burros Gorge on Burros Creek near the junction with Little Burros Creek, on the S. side of the canyon. Walter thought there were 2 or 3 nests on the S. side of canyon & possibly 1 on the N. side. This area is now on Hunter Liggett military reservation. George watched this area from a hill-side from early morning, & sometimes the ~~old~~ adult would not come until evening. One would go in & the other out, then. (This info jibes with nest activity I observed). Walter Harris was born in 1880. Condors were more common than turkey vultures when he was a boy, he said, in the 90's. The last he saw was about "1920 or '22", in the San Carpoforo Creek area about 2 miles E. & ½ mile N. of Mt. Mars. This bird was seen in summer & acted like a flightless immature. It had down on head & front of wings. It flapped along & perched in some pines & allowed close approach. Harris thought it must



Ford

Gymnogyps californianus

July 3, 1946 Nr. Bryson, Calif.

have come from some rocks there near Dutra Place. (Walter's description was too accurate for imagination.) They used to mine quicksilver in that area. Another nest was at Pebblestone Shut-In where there are high conglomerate cliffs. This spot is on S. side of the Nacimiento River about 3/4 miles upstream from Asbury Creek, on the N. side of the bluff. Another spot, where Dr Tracy got an egg, was on Little Burnett Creek about 1 mile N. & 1/2 mile E. of Burnett Pk. The nest here was a crevice about 15' deep which one could walk into. Walter's uncles discovered it when hunting; they fired & a ~~b~~ condor flew out of the nest. Walter had been in this cave. Yet another spot was at The Shut-In on Nacimiento River at its junction with El Piojo Creek (1/2 mile below Waller Creek). I visited this cliff with Harris & photoed it. The 400±' steep conglomerate bluff rises at edge of the Nacimiento on the NW side, & the cave Walter thought was it was about 150' up from canyon bottom on the SE face, a roundish hole about 6' high. The rock here is the same as at Beartrap Canyon on McChesney Mtn.; & the same as at Pebblestone Shut-In, said Walter. The Burros Gorge is rougher rock - like lava in places, Walter said & The Burros is the roughest country Walter knows of. George Harris saw condors in the "Burnett" country" several times but found no

Gymnogyps californianus

July 3, 1944 Nr. Bryson, Calif.

nest, Walter said. Once George took a young from the nest & kept it for about 2 weeks before shipping it - to New York (& the eggs too) Walter thought. Walter said his father once caught a condor in a steel trap. Once Walter saw 2 in the snowy winter near York Mtn., he said. Often the Harris brothers were too late in ~~getting~~ finding the eggs - "2 or 3 hatched", Walter said. Walter used to hike & explore with Bert De Tracey when a boy. Vulture Rock, near Rocky Butte, was named for condors & they used to perch there, Walter said. Condors were seldom shot & ~~he~~ it was known they did not kill or do harm, said Walter. He thinks they were "starved out" of this area. There used to be many cattle & carcasses on the San Miguelito & El Piojo ranches, said Walter. Frank McCormack (sp.?), still living in SE part of King City (near Linn's (sp.?) Food Center), shot 2 or 3 - perhaps more - for the Smithsonian Institute, Walter said, mainly from pine trees in the aforementioned ranch areas. Frank had told Walter he had seen "hundreds" of condors, Walter said. Frank is about 87 & shot the condors when about 20, Walter believed. The same year ~~that~~ George Harris had the chick, a foreman at San Miguelito Ranch (Francis Horn?), "lassed" an adult & kept it for several days before freeing it, Walter said. The

Gymnogyps californianus

July 3, 1946 Nr. Bryson, Calif.

last Harris egg was taken about 1900 or before, Walter thought. One was shot from cliff at The Shut-Inn, Walter said. Walter said that a rider on the Santa Margarita Ranch told him that 2 or 3 years ago he saw 6 or 7 on that ranch, & described the white under wings to Harris. Walter is fairly spry & bright for his age, but ~~seems~~ seems poor & has a ramshackle house. He seemed very honest & careful in his facts, however, & evidently knew condors well & took ~~an~~ interest in wild life. Harris said he knew of no high waterfalls in this region & had never seen condors drinking but had seen them feeding on cattle.

July 4, 1946 Nr. Bryson, Calif.

Drove to the home of Bert De Tracy about 3 miles W. of Tierra Redonda Mtn. Bert remembered me from letters & my previous visit. He was now not able to get around well because of illness. He said that condors used to nest at Pebblestone Shut-In on the NW side of the river facing S., & that Tom Harris found a young condor there about 1883. Another supposed nest was at Tierra Redonda Mtn.. The Little Burnett nest where Bert got an egg about 1900 ~~was~~ was about 200 yds. from the creek & about 16' above the ground, Bert said, facing SE. Condor nests in

Gymnogyps californianus

July 4, 1946 Nr. Bryson, Calif.

general faced S., he said, in this region. An immature was said to have been seen near the N. fork of the San Carpoforo in the last few years, Bert said. One imm. was reportedly seen in McLaughlin Canyon in Towse Creek area in August last (?) year, he said. An eastern collector named Bull (sp.?) had once asked Bert to go with him into the San Carpoforo to look for a nest - he said he would call the egg "Peruvian condor" if found. Bert says he refused to go. Bert is now 67. When about 14, he said he saw "50 or 60" on occasions in head of Pico Canyon near Rocky Butte. The partner of George Harris in collecting was Wallace Mathews, Bert said. They found an imm. in nest near Rocky Butte & decided to leave it until further grown, then take & sell it. Wallace took the bird later & sold it, & thus made George very mad. Bert believes most of George's eggs went to Harry Taylor at $100 apiece. The Burnett Creek nest was not found by George Harris because he searched in the high & large "red rock", while nest was found low down in small rocks by De Tracy. Bert says the last condors he saw was 3 or 4 years ago when two came from direction of Tierra Redonda about dusk. (Bert told me Yes-CK ~~this~~ story in 1940, I believe). Bert believes the condors left ~~ate~~ this area because of lack of food. "Old man Lynch" once told him ~~that~~ he had

Gymnogyps californianus

July 4, 1946 Nr. Bryson, Calif.

20,000 sheep in this region, Bert said. Bert said that condors were almost as common as turkey vultures when he was a boy. Bert likes to play the part of an authority & to talk & is liable to give the impression that doubtful data is fact. He said that Cecil De Tracy had told him he heard of condors getting in an oil sump near Maricopa some years ago. Cecil had reported also seeing many condors in Hurricane Deck area where he worked for the Forest Service. Bert said he had heard from George Harris that condors once nested in a burnt redwood stump in the Salmon Creek area. From De Tracy's I walked down to the Nacimiento & upstream to Pebblestone Shut-In, a gorge about 100' wide at water surface, with conglomerate cliffs about 150' high on either side. Except for this area, the river was banked by oak - digger pine - chaparral on moderate slopes. Above the cliffs of the Shut-In, the slopes continued to twice the height of the cliffs. There were very few holes in the cliffs, no whitewash of note, & only scraggly digger pines nearby for perches - a disappointing place. Condors nesting here would be decidedly low down & would have difficulty in rising out of the canyon, & would have to fly low over the water. De Tracy believed the Shut-In cliffs about 175' maximum height. Several times it had been planned to put a dam there. Bert referred to

Gymnogyps californianus

July 4, 1946 Nr. Bryson, Calif.

a rock point 1/4 or 1/3 mile upstream from the Pebblestone Shut-In as "Vulture Rock" & said that was where the condors used to roost. From the road above DeTracy's house one could see Gould & Barnett Pk. almost in line to W. - the old nest was on E. side of Barnett Pk. Walter Harris examined it once & told Bert a rock had fallen across the entrance; Bert said this rock was there when he got the egg.

July 5, 1946

At Pozo guard station, I talked ~~[illegible]~~ with fire control assistant Olsen & others who did trail & fire work in this area. None was sure he had seen a condor though they had heard of them. Later they phoned me at Branch Mtn. & told me that a man named Dunlap who worked there said he knew of two nests in the Fernandez area (N. of Black Mtn.). He also said they had been seen near Shandon a couple of times this year. At Branch Mtn. I talked with lookout Wooding. He had seen up to 4 turkey vultures perched on nearby rocks, but no condors - & had not heard of condors ever. One gets a direct view of Black Mtn. & Caliente Pk. from this lookout, but none of McChesney Mtn. - Beartrap Canyon area because of intervening hills. Day clear, about 70°; fog toward coast in morning. I hiked down

Gymnogyps californianus

July 5, 1946 Branch Mtn., Calif.

to Luelling's place about 1½ miles to E. of lookout; Luelling was not home, so I left him a note requesting condor information. Phoned Mrs. Franck at Black Mtn. lookout - she said only buzzards had been seen there; she had a hazy idea of what condors looked like. About 4 p.m. I left Branch Mtn. & returned to Avenales Ranch. There I talked to foreman Took. He said he saw 3 about March on E. side of Mc Chesney Mtn.; that they seemed to be seen only on the Buckhorn side of Pine Mtn. - around Beartrap & Martinez Canyon; that the most ever seen was 7 (several years ago). Took seems very reliable & honest. One rider who often went up on the ridge said that occasionally he saw 2 or 3, sometimes maybe 4 or 5 (I'm not sure he knew the birds). The cook's husband said he used to live near Figueroa Mtn. & sometimes 2 were seen around there. The Sinton's were not at this ranch, so I left for La Panza to camp.

July 6, 1946 Beartrap Canyon, Calif.

Drove up San Juan River from La Panza Ranch, thence up Beartrap Canyon, then hiked from 8:10 to 9:10, & took a position on hillside N. of the Dawson condor nest about 1 mile. At 9:07 I saw one condor about 1½ miles N. of Beartrap Rocks soaring N. toward La Panza - I did not see where

Ford

Gymnogyps californianus

July 6, 1946 Beartrap Canyon, Calif.

it came from. Day clear & warm, light breeze from E. about 9 a.m. Claude Brown & "Kelly" Truesdale used to watch with a large telescope (40+ power, said Fred T., & tripod) from this area for days, one going out & getting grub while other watched. Wind light to fair from W. later, & I continued watching & took some photos of the Dawson nest locale. At 4:11 p.m., fair W. wind still, two adults appeared over Beartrap Canyon as if coming from E. Each flapped a few times, & one chased the other for one turn. They separated & wandered about, 1 passing 600±' above me at 4:25. Saw 8 buzzards about this time - most seen all day. At 4:34 the two circled with but below 8 buzzards over the bluffy-knoll about 1 mile E. of the Dawson nest site. They headed W. about 1/2 mile apart, the buzzards more or less following, & at 4:38 one landed atop a stub on sky line about 1/2 mile SE of the "fief" & the other passed 1/4± mile SE of this one as if headed into Hay Canyon. 4:42, the first shifted roost 100± yds. NW to a green pine (yellow?). These birds seem, then, to be only roosting in this area & not nesting. 4:47, an adult from ? circled 1000±' above me, then E. & S. over the bluffy-knoll. 4:54, this bird joined 2 other adults (3 total) & 13± buzzards 800±' above me, & they milled together, the condors lowest in the group. They

Gymnogyps californianus

July 6, 1946 Beartrap Canyon, Calif.

rose 500±'; then at 5 p.m. headed S. toward where first perched, the buzzards following in a group 1/4± mile behind. After 1/2± mile, the 3 condors again circled, & the buzzards checked too & circled just above them. This is best instance I have seen of ~~condors~~ buzzards staying with condors in flight. 5:10, the 3 were about 500' above the "fief" bluff, 10 buzzards circling near them, but all more scattered than before. The group was about 3/4 mile W. of the "fief" at 5:15. Fair W. breeze still. At 5:17 I saw 2 condors alight 1/4± mile apart on the skyline in green pines about 3/4 mile W. of Dawson's nest. So, at least 3 adults, possibly 5, roosting in pines atop McChesney Mtn. on NE side. The buzzards seemed to be descending near the last condors. By 5:40 I spotted no condors so hiked downstream to camp.

July 7, 1946 Beartrap Canyon, Calif.

Calm night & clear. Hiked up canyon & arrived at my watching point of yesterday at 7:10 a.m. Clear, calm, & 65±°. I could not spot any roosting condors. At 8:10, air calm still, I saw first turkey vulture soaring near cliffs. By 8:20 I saw 5± vultures in air; a fair ~~SW~~ NW breeze sprang up. At 8:31 I saw 3 adults gliding over cliff tops about 1/2 mile ~~SE~~ SE of the "fief"; then a fourth joined them. Two flex-glided fast, the wing tips being

oford

Gymnogyps californianus

July 7, 1946 Beartrap Canyon, Calif

well down in front view & inner wing straight. One dove at another, both twisting in flight. At 8:36 at least 3 of these glided S. above the trees, 1/4± mile apart, without ever getting over 1/4 mile E. of the cliffs. 8:42, 4 adults (same probably) circled 200±' above highest cliff point. At 8:45 these 4 headed NE about 100 yds. apart. After about 1 mile, they circled & rose, & were joined below by 2 more condors & a vulture (so 6 condors, apparently non-breeding adults). All circled & at 8:49 headed NE as if toward Syncline Hill in business-like fashion (strung out about 3/4 mile at 4000±' elevation level. A duck hawk was frequently heard from cliff area. 8:55, one adult circled, feet down, near highest cliffs. This bird glided 1/2± mile NW, then circled & rose, & I saw another condor circling 300±' below it. The two circled together, then upper dove at lower 4 successive times, each time approaching from above in an accelerating flex glide & attacking from the rear, the lower bird then steepening glide & twisting, the upper following, then both (adults) resuming normal flight, the upper bird still above. The lower continued on into Hay Canyon, the upper returned 1/2± mile S., circled & rose, & glided E. fast about 1000' above me, also about

ford

Gymnogyps californianus

July 7, 1946 Beartrap Canyon, Calif.

Toward Syncline Hill, & out of sight at 9:15 about 2 miles NE of me. So - possibly 8 condors were present. Breeze from E. by 9:15. I returned to camp & later drove to Shandon. There Ian McMillan told me that it was his impression that Hatch had seen condors in Arroyo Pinoso for ~~several~~ many years - Ian will check on this.

July 8, 1946 Nr. Cholame, Calif.

Clear still morning, fog in Paso Robles area. I drove from Shandon toward Cottonwood Pass & took the Hancock Ranch road. At about 7:30, I found a fresh calf carcass about 20' from the ranch road & 300± yds. N. of Cottonwood Pass highway. About 100' from this carcass I found a condor primary. The calf, a 90± lb. Hereford, had apparently died 2 or 3 days ago. The hide was limp, but there was a 12±" circular hole at one shoulder & most of the foreleg was pulled inside out through this hole, the bones cleaned, & the meat of neck, ribs, back, & internal organs was gone. Much meat of lower legs still present, tongue gone (& eyes) but nose & roof of mouth still present but rather dried. I dragged the carcass about 100 yds. from the road. It lay on flat short-grass ground about 300 yds. from cattle wallow on Cholame

Gymnogyps californianus

July 8, 1946 Nr. Cholame, Calif.

Flat. About 8 a.m. I visited the cow carcass where I previously flushed 11 condors. It was now deflated, crawling with thousands of maggots, & had been torn open in several spots as if by coyotes. I found a few bits of down but none surely from condors - apparently no extensive condor feeding then. In the mud about 100' from carcass I found no condor tracks. About 1/4 mile from this carcass on a ridge I placed a large white angora rabbit, about 2 days dead, which I had found along the highway. About 9:15 a turkey vulture was on the old calf carcass. 9:30, fair S. breeze, sky 1/10 cirro-stratus; about 75°F. I scanned for condors but spotted none until 9:50 - then I saw one land about 20' E. of calf carcass. I drove to a hilltop about 1 mile NE of carcass. At 9:55 I saw a second condor at road edge 100± yds. E. of calf; then 3 turkey vultures, & 20±' further E., across the dirt road, a third condor. The nearest Hereford was 100± yds. W. of the carcass. Breeze fair from SW at 10 a.m. 10:01, a buzzard, then the 3 condors, took off & began to circle & rise over the carcass - a car passed 300± yds. to S. of them about this time. The 3 were 2 adults & a ragged immature. At 10:04 another 2 - adult & imm. - circled 100±' over the 3, & the 3 turkey vultures slightly higher.

ord

Gymnogyps californianus

July 8, 1946 Nr. Cholame, Calif.

At 10:06 the 5 were 500±' above me in a small group, circling & rising & drifting down-wind. At 10:08 they headed S. about 500' above the slopes, in an irregular ~~[illegible]~~ column. They circled together again about 1 mile S. of me over the W. slopes, & a sixth (adult or near-adult) passed SW about 300' above me — this one then circled independently of the 5. The 6 soared 500±' over me again, then 1/2± mile E. where all 6 circled & rose, sans vultures, in a small group (10:19), now apparently gaining altitude again. Apparently a first visit to remains of previous day's feeding is common with these birds. 10:22, they scattered for about 1 1/2 miles N. & S. near me, the N. ones probably about over the white rabbit, still at 500±' altitude. Then more scattered, 2 being about 2 miles S. of me, circling — a ~~buteo~~ buteo-type hawk dove 100±' at one from above, the condor twisting & diving away. — and furthest N. about 2 1/2 miles away over the main cattle wallow. 10:32, 3 circled about 1000' over the rabbit vicinity; & 2 were about 2 miles S. of me, circling ~~& rising~~, as if going to hunt to S., but only at 500± ~~alti~~ altitude (10:36). At 10:40 these 2 circling further S., about on usual route ~~to~~ Shale Hills area. The 3 worked higher & to SE about 2 miles NE of Cholame Rocks, as if also off on a long journey. A turkey vulture fed on the calf again. At

Gymnogyps californianus

July 8, 1946 Nr. Cholame, Calif.

11:20 I saw one about 3 miles S. of me, circling & drifting E., & at 11:30 lost it about over the hills just SW of Polonio Pass. Fair SW wind continued. I revisited the calf carcass. Both ears were still present. Meat from distal 1/3 of mandible was eaten away. Neck hollow. There was a 4± " hole in belly & 3± " hole at anus, few flies, little smell - this calf might furnish a meal for 1 or 2 condors in a pinch. Total remains weighed 25 lbs. I drove over Polonio Pass, down Antelope Valley, then S. below foothills to Carneros Canyon - saw no condors, & only stock a few cattle below Carneros.

July 9, 1946 Temblor Ranch, Calif.

Drove from Carneros Canyon to Temblor Ranch which is owned by Carl Twisselman, brother-in-law of Ian McMillan. Carl was not home, but talked with his wife & son (14±) Kenneth. They had some photos which showed condors about 1 mile from the house on their roost - there were 14 at that time they said; the photo showed about 7. One was photo was close enough for a positive identification of an adult. They said that ~~There 14 were~~ one was here about 3 months ago feeding on a calf which they had dragged out in the field from the barn (died previous day). They had been here 5 years & had seen condors every year, they said. Now they had only cattle but before they had the ranch there were sheep here. Mrs. T. said that many of

Gymnogyps californianus

July 9, 1946 Temblor Ranch, Calif.

the Carrizo sheepmen had sold their sheep & turned to cattle instead during the war (Cuyama too?). This area was rolling short-grass foothills with many oil roads & derricks near plains edge. I talked with Carl Twisselman & saw a short 8 mm. movie he had taken of 3 condors atop Garcia Rocks (about 2 miles N. of ranch house). He said that 3 or 4 years ago he saw 9 or 10 near the water trough in Carneros Canyon & found a primary feather there. In 1941 the pictures at Garcia Rocks were taken. These are sandstone projections atop a ridge. Men were working on a fence nearby & ~~we~~ ~~a car rode~~ Carl drove within 1/4 mile of (& below) the birds several times. This was at 2 or 3 p.m. & in spring. A dead sheep was between the workmen & the condors. Condors were seen several times that spring, especially 3, said Carl. In spring of 1942, Carl was driving up the road about a mile below ranch house when he saw what he thought was an eagle fly from a fence post. He shot at it with a .22 pistol several times before he realized the bird was a condor. Then the others flew up, a total of 14. They were down at a cow carcass 2 or 3 days old which had been dragged out in the field. About 3 month's ago Carl drove by a calf carcass & saw 1 big condor ~~feeding on~~ at it - he said this was the biggest condor he had ever seen. He sneaked up on this bird &-

9 or 10 - trough - Corn. - 3 or 4 yrs ago.

-drove 40± mile from sev. times, + men work.

'41 - 3 on Sac. Rdgs - spr. - dead sh. later. under & rider. - 2 or 3 pm -
saw many that spr., esp. 3.

-was atop fence post

17 - shot at ~~D th.~~ eagle - cow carc, 2 or 3 days old -
(from car - oth. ups.)
Spr. 42

Mouries 194's - drove by - sneaked up - 1 bird -
nor orange noted. Not eaten - didn't come back - moved
self to good pic. pos.

One showed on Carrizo on San Juan Ranch - on horse -
flew from ridge to ~~ridge~~ - rode up on, in draw - 10 birds.

Dougl & rider saw ~~under~~ w. trough - about 2 wks later
picked up. (S.B. bird).

Pois. with strych. for sq. - no buzz. or eagles killed.
says stry. pois. rabbits go for water. On "home" ranch
pois. with str., ~~that, rock~~ pois. - no t.v. fnd. dead. Saw
ravens with coy. baits tho.

Once dragged ~~them out~~ to try ~~to~~ bait for pois - no luck

Summer 45 - 7 in sight, Tumi - over house.
(June ±).

Doesnt bel. will eat anthrax animal - put some out for
coyote bait - no coy. or buzz, ravens yes.

42 - 78 lost from anthrax in Buttonwillow area - many
buzz & some condors around (July or Aug).

Gymnogyps californianus

July 9, 1946 Temblor Ranch, Calif.

got fairly close but noted no orange head. The calf had not been eaten at all. The carcass was moved to a better photographing location, but the condor did not come back. Another time he dragged a cow carcass out to try to bait condors, but no birds come. In the summer of 1945, 7 condors were in sight at one time circling over the hills near the house (about June), Carl used to work for various ranches in the Carrizo Plains & Shandon-Cholame areas. He said he saw one on San Juan Ranch once which seemed to be too full to fly, & it flapped from ridge to ridge, chased by cowboys on horseback. Another time they rode up on 10 in a draw, also on San Juan Ranch (below La Panza Ranch). The one found dead & now at Santa Barbara museum was seen partly under a water trough about 3 miles from the house (Nw) by Daryl T. (about 12 yrs. old). The specimen was not seen to be a condor & rescued until about 2 weeks later. As to poison, Carl said all the foothills area for about 35 miles was poisoned for squirrels this year. No dead buzzards or eagles were found, however. Ravens are killed by strychnine coyote baits, Carl said. Strychnine poisoned animals (rabbits, coyotes) seem to go for water, said Carl - maybe why condors found dead at water. Ernest Still, Carl's brother-in-law, found one dead in a water tank in

used to have sheep - & oth, up to 7000, in this area. Gone now -
thinks more when sheep. Only 1 sheep ranch on Carrizo now.

rd

Gymnogyps californianus

July 9, 1946 Temblor Ranch, Calif.

Antelope Valley area. On the "home" ranch (Bitterwater area), strychnine, thallium, & other squirrel poisons have been used for years without apparently affecting turkey vultures, Carl said. Carl doesn't believe coyotes or condors will eat an anthrax-killed animal. He put anthrax-killed cows out for coyote bait on several occasions but no birds except ravens fed on them (& no coyotes). In 1942 about 78 cattle died from anthrax in the Bitterwater area in July & August, & many buzzards & condors were seen in the area then. Anthrax carcasses are burned to ~~nothing~~ ashes as soon as found. Carl said he used to raise sheep & ~~that~~ ~~there~~ were about 7000 in this area (Temblor Range), & he believes condors were more common when sheep were here (had sheep 1 or 2 years after got ranch 3 years ago). Carl had a very low opinion of "sportsmen". They shoot his cattle & shoot holes in his water tanks & enter his property in spite of posting. He believes the men around the oil fields are some of the worst offenders. He promised to record ~~the info~~ any further instances of condors in this locality. He is very interested in wildlife, especially quail.

July 12, 1946 Springville, Calif.

Talked with district ranger Stumble of the U.S.F.S. He had taken over here June 1 & was different from most

11:00 - 1

:15 ♀ with 30± J ✓
1 ad. 100±', near road.
11:25 ad. & eug. 20±' ap. Eug. fed y.s. 3:6, eug. walked to ad., pecked - cond. back 6±'. Cond ch. & neck swoll., bill open. Hot & light breeze. Stood 9±' apart.
:35, ad. off.

Circ. fl., rose - down ½ mile w. 1st spot at 11:40.

54: imm. (3-yr) up from rock ⅜ mile W. of CC Farnsworth house; & adult about :57 fun?;

Glen Olsen - Fount. Spr. - pair.

Gymnogyps californianus

July 12, 1946 Springville, Calif.

rangers, apparently "busted" from assistant supervisor. He said Blue Ridge lookout was manned by the State (hdqtrs. Visalia, ranger Pennington) this year. He had sent the photos & mimeo sheets I sent him to his own lookouts (Tobias, Jordan, & one other peak). Blue Mtn. is also State manned, he said. The condor note I received with his name signed to it was not written by him - he was extremely sceptical that condors occurred this far north as he had once worked on the Las Padres, but he promised to send me any information he might receive. W L Richardson of Porterville said he had been here 30 years & had once seen 2(?) condors on Tule Indian Reservation. His children, Bill & Helen, had camped & hiked much in the surrounding area (Bill sent me 1 note on condors). He said he had seen one pair several times around Wilson's Pk. (Mt. Wilson) in his youth.

July 13, 1946 Fountain Springs, Calif.

Drove from Porterville toward White River, and at 11 a.m. ~~stopp~~ stopped about 1 mile SE of Fountain Springs to watch several buzzards in air. I saw one condor at 11 a.m., 1½ miles ESE of Fountain Springs. Then I saw about 50 turkey vultures in ~~one~~ group, & 4 condors among them (at 11:15) about ½ mile E. of ~~on~~ (the road at my position. They scattered soon. Then one adult soared about 100

Gymnogyps californianus

July 13, 1946 Nr. Fountain Springs, Calif.

yds. from me at 100± ft. altitude and landed about 3/8 mile E. of the road on an oat-covered 20±% slope. A golden eagle stood $\overset{20}{30}$±' from this adult & apparently pecked near a squirrel hole (11:25). About 11:30 the eagle walked slowly up to the condor, raised its wings, & pecked out at the condor - the latter retreated about 6'; then all calm again. Earlier I saw that condor's neck & cheeks were puffed up & that bill was open, as if hot. Day hot (95±°), & breeze light, with clear sky. The hills here are rolling with occasional oaks & small granite outcroppings. The eagle left about 11:34, the adult about 11:35. It flap-circled, then circled, wandered about 1/2 mile SW, then descended as if to alight (11:40). I drove 1/2± mile further down the road to house of C.C. Farnsworth, a cattle rancher. The condor was apparently on the slopes about 3/8 mile W. of this house. At 11:54 an immature (4± yr. old) flew off from that spot, & an adult about 11:57. Later I saw turkey vultures feeding there. The adult flew about 1/2 mile N., then spiraled to ground again. About 12:08 I saw 2 condors flap from that area, & 3 total in air. At about 12:15 I saw 2 about 1 1/2 miles SE of the house. At 12:35 I saw 1 about 2 miles E. of Fountain Springs with a group of 15± turkey vultures. I talked with CC Farnsworth who lived there with his

Gymnogyps californianus

July 13, 1946   Nr. Fountain Springs, Calif.

mother & who had just completed his first year at "J.C.". He said he had heard about condors on Founder's Day at J.C. - that he knew one was killed near here last year & that they were almost extinct. He had been about 10 years in the White River - Fountain Springs area but had not seen a condor to know it. I pointed out one to three of them to him several times, but he showed no enthusiasm. He said they had just finished poisoning for squirrels here yesterday, & that he believed the poisoners were working on N. side of Calif. Hot Springs road & E. side of White River road. Glen Olsen of Fountain Springs was locally in charge. County furnishes the poison but not the labor. I obtained permission to walk & drive about the ranch & drove to a hill about 1/2 mile E. of the ranch house (12:35). Breeze fair from NW. I saw one dead swollen cottontail rabbit, as yet untouched. The vultures & condors seemed to be spread to SE about 1 mile or so, & over to Calif. Hot Springs road area. At 1:30 I saw 3 circling & rising fast about 2 miles east & 2 miles N. of Fountain Springs. I went then to a point about 1 mile further S. but saw only turkey vultures from there by 2:20. Then returned to first spot but saw none by 2:55 - & very few turkey vultures. I found 3 dead squirrels by some rocks;

Gymnogyps californianus

July 13, 1946 Fountain Springs, Calif.

they were stinking & about 2 days old, quite juicy, & 2 partially eaten. One was completely in open, one in burrow entrance but hidden by rocks, & one half in ~~half on~~ burrow (~~head eaten~~). I visited site where I saw the eagle & condor this morning & found pieces of fur, tail, & skull of a squirrel, & what was apparently stomach & esophagus (messed up, couldn't be sure). Laid a ripe cottontail & squirrel out in that vicinity for bait. Found the squirrel in burrow mouth, swollen but uneaten. There was fresh poisoned grain outside ~~the~~ most squirrel burrows - this was whole oats, ~~slightly~~ slightly flattened, & yellow in color. At Fountain Springs fire suppression camp I talked with an Indian who remembered my former visit (about 1940). He said 2 or 3 years ago a couple of birds flew over which might have been condors. He thought they lived in the higher country. At Fountain Springs I talked with Glen Anderson, in charge of local poisoning. The ~~Most~~ poisoning was being done now on both sides of the Hot Springs & White River roads, working from Fountain Springs. He had heard that one rider on a ranch had seen a condor this year, but he had seen none tho he had heard of them. He said Morisey (sp.) Ranch had just completed poisoning & that many buzzards were there (S. side of Hot Springs road, second ranch from Fountain Springs). I

3 – 1 ½ hr N – 9:15

Gymnogyps californianus

July 13, 1946 Fountain Springs, Calif.

drove about 3 miles toward Hot Springs & climbed a hill to watch. At 4:20 I saw 7 condors circling & rising about 3 miles N. of me (over S. end of Cedar Mtn.?). They rose to 1500± 'altitude, then at least 5 glided E. about 2 miles, circled again, then E. another 1½± mile, circled again, ~~then~~ - ? There were many large conifers, many dead, on the W. slopes in the Calif. Hot Springs ~~area~~ direction - probably good roosts. The birds seemed roughly headed for Gibbon Pk. (4517 ft.) Saw no more condors by 5 p.m.; returned to Porterville.

July 14, 1946 Nr. Fountain Springs, Calif.

Arrived about 1 mile E. of Fountain Springs at 8:50 & climbed a low hill. From there, at 8:55, I saw 6 condors with 20± turkey vultures & 1 golden eagle circling about 1 mile SE of Fountain Springs (¼± mile E. of road). At least two I saw flap up from the ground. Breeze light, sky clear, 75±°F. The bunch circled, rose, & scattered. The bulk of the condors went about 2 miles SE, then N until about 1 mile E. of me, circling over a knoll, then N. again, & at 9:15 I saw 3 of these about 2 miles N. & 1 E. of Fountain Springs, circling at 500± 'above some soaring turkey vultures. Fair W. breeze by then. I saw one condor chase another briefly, then

Gymnogyps californianus

July 14, 1946 Nr. Fountain Springs, Calif.

they soared amicably together. Of the 6, at least 1 was immature & 2 adults. About 9:25 I saw one about 1 mile E. of me at 200±' altitude; it soared N., & a Swainson (?) hawk dived at it once. The ~~bird~~ condor dove & descended 100±'; then continued on for 1/2± mile, then soared S. at 100±' altitude & was attacked by 2 diving Swainsons. This adult crossed highway 1/2± mile E. of me, flap-gliding, then wandered about & headed for 7± buzzards circling ~~1±~~ about 1 mile S. of me. (9:35). 9:40, still wandering, feet down, in same vicinity the buzzards had gone. Then spiraled down fast, wings flexed, ~~but~~ legs extended, as if to land at 9:42 1/2. Then others appeared over that area - 5 by 9:44, circling in a group, & a sixth about 1/2 mile to W. of them. By 9:53 there were 8 in a 1/4± mile group about 1 1/2 miles S. of me, some having come from N. of the Hot Springs road. I saw 2 flap from the ground below them, & one descending as if to alight, & 2 about 1/2 mile N. of the main group, counting a total of 12 at 9:58. Two adults soared N. about 300' over the road near me, & at 10:02 were circling with a third about 1/2 mile N. of road, apparently almost over a grain field. Another group of 5, with several turkey vultures, circled almost over Farnsworth's house, & at 10:06 I saw at least one descend just over the ridge to W. of the house (1/4± mile from house). 10:08, 6 soaring above that ridge. Breeze intermittent but generally fair from W.. The

Gymnogyps californianus

July 14, 1946 Nr. Fountain Springs, Calif.

group then strung out to E., & at 10:14 6 circled about 1 mile E. of the Farnsworth house. 10:16, 4 were back over the ridge behind the F. house again. About 10:25 I saw one flap from behind ridge about 1/2 mile S. of Farnsworth's house, & at 10:26 saw 2 circling about 3/4 mile E. of that house. At 10:33 two adults came N. & circled 100±' over the Hot Springs road. One returned S. & went down as if to land at 10:40 about 3/4 mile S. of me. Walter Richardson & wife arrived on the road below me then. At 10:48 two adults rose up from the area, circled, & rose. One ~~head~~ wandered off to W., & one headed S. again about 1/2 mile & was joined by a third (10:54). 11:01, I saw 1 leave the ground about 1 1/2 miles N. of road near me, & another in air near it. At 11:06 one of these passed S. over us (200±' altitude), crop bulging. 11:10, I saw one land in grass field about 1 mile N. of me & 50± yds. from a fence (landed to W.), & another soared near it. At 11:16 I saw 2 soaring about 2 miles NNE of Fountain Springs. ~~About~~ 11:40 I saw 1 soaring about 1 mile S. of me (adult), then no more by 12:00. Time out for lunch & talk with the Richardson's until 1:30, then back to my former watching hill & at 1:35 I saw one circling about 1 1/2 miles S. of me. Fair wind from W. I then visited the cottontail carcass I had laid out yesterday - it was 3/4 consumed but no ev-

Gymnogyps californianus

July 14, 1946 Nr. Fountain Springs, Calif.

dence of condor presence. I incidentally found 3 squirrels dead outside of holes - 2 were untouched but fell apart easily so quite ripe; 1 was 1/3 eaten; stomach was opened but its contents untouched. At ~~3~~ 2:50 p.m. I was atop a knoll about 2½ miles E. of Fountain Springs. From there at 2:58 I saw 5 condors apparently about ½ mile W. of S. end of Credon Mtn. They circled above horizon, working eastward over the mountain tops, & I followed 1-3 about 2 miles further E. One went out of sight into Deer Creek drainage (3:14) & I followed another, rising & working E., until 3:20. Fair W. wind continued. At 3:37 I saw about 35 turkey vultures in a bunch over S. end of Credon Mtn. I kept up a constant search but saw no more condors there by 4 p.m. Drove then toward Calif. Hot Springs taking the old road on N. side of King George Pk. Got a good view of the big conifers around head of Gordon Creek, the suspected roosting area, but saw no condors by 5:30. Met an old timer who lived on this road. He said he had seen a condor after a rabbit on the Deer Creek road several years ago ~~& also~~ (very doubtful!).

July 15, 1946 Nr. Gordon Creek, Calif.

At 6 a.m. I was on the road opposite the head of Gordon Creek. At 7 a.m. started watching ridge between Gibbon Pk. & Hatchett Pk. Day clear & warm, light W. breeze by

Gymnogyps californianus

July 15, 1946 Nr. Gordon Creek, Calif.

7 a.m. At 7:50 I saw 2 turkey vultures soaring, & about 5 at 8:10. ~~By~~ By 9:30, with constant searching, saw no condors, so descended to about 1 mile E. of Fountain Springs. There I saw 1 about 1½ miles toward Cedar Mtn. at 10:18, & 3 with about 50 turkey vultures about 1½ miles ~~near C C Farnsworth house~~ S. of me at 10:21. Breeze fair; warmer today than yesterday, & clearer. About 10:40 I again saw 1 about 2 miles toward Cedar Mtn., & 1 about 2 miles SE of me, both soaring. Left then & drove to White River. Saw several turkey vultures on ground & ~~or~~ perched in trees & on rocks on the way. Talked to Mrs. Walter Gregg - she said the condors were back again, that there were 4 birds, 2 small ones & 2 large ones, which sometimes perched on the rocks on the high hill (Bald Mtn.) behind the ~~near there~~ house, & that the big ones had white under their wings. Walter Gregg was not in; I left Mrs. G. a condor picture & my address & departed. Visited Marion Vincent then. He said they saw 1 condor May 7 and one June 12, 1946. One was when they were loading cattle at a corral near the ranch ~~[illegible]~~, about between 8 & 9 a.m., & seemed to be coming down the hills. The other was seen when they were poisoning squirrels. He said the first condors he ever saw - about 15 or 16 - was many years ago when they were poisoning squirrels here for the first time & the squirrels were thick. I returned to my watching point about 1 mile E. of Fountain Springs. At 2:11 I saw one adult alight atop a bare lone dead pine stub about

Gymnogyps californianus

July 15, 1946 Nr. Fountain Springs, Tulare Co.

1/2 mile S. of me - it left at 2:16 & soared 20±' over the fence about 1/4 mile W. of me heading N. I saw a group of 3 condors about 1 mile E. of me & another 500±' overhead at ~~about~~ the same time, so at least 5 present. At 2:21 I again saw 5 in a 1/4± mile group about 1 mile SE of me, tacking into the NW breeze, wings flexed, & some with feet down. These scattered - at 2:29 saw 4 over ~~a 2~~ about a two mile ~~stretch~~, ~~about~~ at 100 to 500' altitude. By car & ~~off~~ afoot I went to top of a ridge about 1 1/2 miles E. of S. end of Credaw Mtn. to watch for "homing" condors, arriving 3:30. At 3:40 I saw 1 apparently descending at foot of S. end of Credaw Mtn. as if to alight among the oaks. 3:48, I saw 4 over the slope of S. end of C. Mtn., at least 2 having come from at least a mile to S. Fair W. breeze still. 3:53, 5 condors & 3 turkey vultures were circling ~~& rising~~ over low hills at S. ~~foot~~ of C. Mtn.. They slowly descended - at 4 p.m. I had seen 4 go down as if to land where the 3:40 bird went. 4:08, another spiraled slowly down to land, having approached in a straight glide from 1+ mile to S.. By 4:55 saw no more activity so hiked about 3/8 mile to W. along ridge top. At 5:04 an immature soared 100±' over me there, then circled & rose to 1000±' alt. (5:08), then glided to about over Buck Mtn., circled & rose again, working toward Galley Mtn., then headed toward Gibbon Pk. & turned back when near its top, descending ~~on~~ over S. slope of this

Gymnogyps californianus

July 15, 1946 Nr. Credon Mtn., Calif.

peak it seemed (last over dark brush at 5:18). Fair W. breeze still & no activity where most condors apparently alighted. I could see open water in a small stream near that locality. By 6 p.m. I saw no condors, so went down to the area where I last saw them - they were gone & I had missed them; they must have followed an initial route home different than that of the 5:04 bird. ~~About~~ The only carcass I could find where the birds apparently descended was a hard dried hide with scattered old white bones - could it be the condors descended thinking this a recent corpse? using sight rather than smell - of course this area had been poisoned & there were many squirrel burrows & some stench from them. There was a water trough of clear running water and a trickle of clear water in a stream about 100 yds. from carcass, but I could find no condor sign there. A good spot for them to water, though. Many cattle around S. end of Credon Mtn; 500 at least.

July 16, 1946 Nr. Credon Mtn, Tulare Co.

At 6:30 a.m. I was atop a ridge about 1½ miles ~~N.~~ E. of S. end of Credon Mtn. My purpose was to discover from what direction condors came to the Fountain Springs area, & ~~what ne~~ their time of first arrival. Fair W. breeze, & cool.

7:35 - TV
9:06 - 4
:11 - 1 mr,
:25 - 1 ov. tap - 27¾, ov. me (ad.)
:26 oth - fr. - S. Pl.

:30 - 2 ad + mm. ov. me.

:48 - 4 ms.

Gymnogyps californianus

July 16, 1946 Nr. Cradon Mtn, Tulare Co.

At 7:35 I saw first turkey vultures soaring. At 8:06 four condors appeared low over the ridge ¼± mile E. of me, circled over the W. slope & rose 100±'; then glided off to W. & scattered. At 8:11 another (adult) circled & rose above same ridge. I did not see from whence these birds came. At 8:25 I saw one heading my way from above the horizon over Gibbon Pk. - at 8:27¾ it was 100±' above me (adult). 8:26 I saw another coming from same direction. At 8:30, 2 adults & 1 imm. circled 100±' over me. ~~The~~ I saw 1-3 condors circling low over a hillside about 1 mile N. of Fountain Springs several times. Watched the Gibbon Pk. area but saw no more by 8:40. At 8:48 saw 4 with 3 turkey vultures circling & rising over the hillside about 1 mile N. of Fountain Springs. Returned to car, finding on the way two partially consumed squirrel carcasses with a ball of stomach or intestinal contents still intact. Drove then to Porterville, & to Tule River Indian Reservation to try to see where condors went upon passing over Gibbon Creek. The head of the S. Fork of Tule River affords many granite cliff & dead & green conifer roosting spots. Mule Pk. Lookout looks down into this area too. At ~~10~~ 2:17 when I was about ½ mile up Gibbon Creek from Tule River, I saw an adult & imm. (about 2 ~~yrs.~~ yr.) circling overhead with about 3 turkey vultures. The imm. soared lowest, only 100±' alt. at times, & sometimes had feet down.

54 - 3 . Hawk.

2 off to SE

59 - 1 gone; D. Cile.

Gymnogyps californianus

July 16, 1946 Tule R. Indian Reservation, Calif.

They remained until at least 2:25. I ascended a high hill on E. side of Gibbon Creek & at 3:30 was atop it where I could see N. side of Gibbon Pk. area & some of the conifers toward Parker mtn. 3:54, I saw 1 ~~apparent~~ apparent condor descending in a glide between head of Bond & Kessing creeks (possibly an eagle). 4:06, a near adult soared 100±' above me, legs half down. It circled & rose 300±'; then glided to E. over the next ridge, dipping wings several times, as if to descend in lower Bond Creek area. By 5:30 I had seen no more; occasional turkey vultures still soared. 5:33, I heard the whistle of condor wings & saw an adult 100±' above me. It too circled & rose — ~~too~~ fair breeze from W. still. It soared SE until over next ridge, then circled again. Crop bulged on this bird. It headed toward Gibbon Pk. as if descending, then rose again above horizon, circling. Again it glided down, & again rose. A large hawk — rough leg? — circled with it & glided after it — condor too speeded up its glide. At 5:54 an ~~2nd~~ other; then a third condor joined — the hawk (white ~~tail~~ tail base) chased one of these briefly. The group circled & rose at varying altitudes (possibly 4 condors). The highest bore off to SE into head of Gordon Canyon as if descending (5:59, disappeared). The last I saw also bore off to SE, occasionally flapping, & disappeared at 6:04. Air very clear now. Fair W. breeze still. At least one condor may be roosting on the Tule River Indian Re-

6:30 1 ad. - cr. bldg

6:40 - ad - cr. bld. - #7 rt + rt. side tail

Gymnogyps californianus

July 16, 1946 Tule R. Indian Res., Calif.

ervation, & at least 2 in Gordon Creek area. I had started down the mountain when at 6:30 p.m. an adult flew 100±' below me, skirting the slope - perhaps it had flushed from a perch on granite outcroppings there. Its crop bulged. This bird circled until above the knoll, then crossed Gibbon Canyon to SW where I lost it close to some large dead oaks. Occasionally the bird flapped. About 6:40 - I had climbed back atop the hill - an adult with bulging crop swept past skirting the slopes below me (probably same bird). Business-like it circled & rose above me, then to 400±', then glided SE over another ridge, circled & rose 600±', then headed for the saddle into Gordon Creek but didn't make it. Flap-glided then, working ½ mile to W. & back & forth as if trying to gain altitude in vain, & I lost it over the brush there at 7 p.m. (sunset). Breeze light. I departed. Called at house of the local Indian Service man - Mr. Flumley (sp.). He was ill & in bed. His wife said there was an old Indian women about 100 yrs. old on the reservation who was quite alert & active, & she might know something of condors - her name was Rodeliz.

July 17, 1946 Nr. Gibbon Pk., Tulare Co.

I drove up the Deer Creek road & climbed to top of a hill about 1 mile W. of mouth of Gordon Creek, arriving 7:20 a.m. Air calm, warm, & hazy. I could look across at Gibbon Pk. area & see some of the con-

Gymnogyps californianus

July 17, 1946 Nr. Gibbon Pk., Tulare Co.

ifers in head of Gordon Creek from here. At 7:33 I saw the first turkey vulture. 7:38, I saw one condor circling above the ridge about 1 mile E. of ~~Gordon~~ Gibbon Pk. It glided W. & went out of sight on E. side of this Pk. near top. 8:11, I saw a probable condor gliding from Gibbon Pk. area to SW. - some turkey vultures also took this route. Yesterday, the tendency of condors to circle over a knoll was well illustrated by the 2 or 3 which came over me, for I was on the highest point for at least a mile in any direction. These birds too must have been coming from other than the Credon Mtn. direction - perhaps some depart in other directions in the morning too. By 9 a.m. I had seen no more condors - fair W. breeze by then - & none by 9:30, so left. There is much good cattle land in lower Deer Creek area, but I saw only a few cattle. Drove to the junction of McFarland-Woody & Famoso-Woody roads; no squirrels, livestock, or birds save horned-larks there now.

July 18, 1946 Bakersfield, Calif.

At Bakersfield looked up F.F. Latta as recommended by W.L. Richardson. He was working at making adobe bricks for Sandstone Brick Co. He said he had seen condors at Mt. Poso, east of Glennville, & over Bakersfield High School, & thought they were quite numerous - I think some of these must have been turkey vultures. His main interest is collecting relics & information

Medic. –
Talgate –
Blue Mtn. –
Cuyama

Gymnogyps californianus

July 18, 1946 Bakersfield, Calif.

about the surrounding area, & he claims to have interviewed over 10,000 Indians & old-timers. He said that Indian tribes as far north as Tuolumne River have condor legends, & condor feathers are used in some ceremonies. All this dope is recorded in stored notes which he cannot readily get at. He ~~says~~ said he had pictures of condors taken at Painted Rocks in Carrizo Plains too. His father, he said, came to this country in 1850. He had told Frank that condors were more numerous than buzzards in the old days but that they ~~left about~~ diminished & were rare by 1860. He laid this to the poisoning of sheep carcasses. Hank Hahn (sp.?) had given similar information. Latta believes he must have about 6 references to condors in his notes. He is interested in them & promised to dig up some of the information for me. He suggested I see Gene Harris of Salt Creek for information; also W R Dumble of Kern Co. Land Co. repair shops (Oak nr. 21st. in Bakersfield); and William "Billy" Skinner of 1500 Lincoln avenue. Skinner is over 80 & somewhat mentally deficient but what data he gives will be accurate, Latta said. Skinner was born on Tejon Ranch. I visited W R Dumble who received me well & proved an interesting & apparently accurate observer. He had been with "the Land company" for 52 years,

Koford

3276

Gymnogyps californianus

~~Jun~~ July 18, 1946 Bakersfield, Calif.

he said. About 6 or 8 years ago, D. said, he saw 6 or 8 condors at Devils Kitchen - a cliffy area about 4 miles N. of Antimony Pk. on a tributary to San Emidio Creek. They were flying about & alighting on the rocks, & he ~~got some pr~~ found a ~~feath~~ feather of one there. About 1 year ago he saw 1 about 5 miles up the Mt. Abel (snow sports area) road from Maricopa side. About 1930, he said, he saw 14 or 15 in the Mill Creek (Lucas Creek) area on Breckenridge Mtn. in dead pine trees. He said he saw them there several times over 2 or 3 years. ~~at~~ By 1941 they were down to 5 or 6, he said. It was his general impression that condors had decreased since the old days. About 2 weeks ago he said he saw 3 in the Lucas Creek canyon - between the old sawmill & Pine Saddle. In winter, in duck season, he said he used to see them near Kern Lake, about 8 miles S. & $\overset{6}{4}$ east of Old River. This was sheep range up to about 1925 & there were about 50,000 sheep. The "Land Company" sold this land about '25 & it is now mostly in cotton. About 15 years ago, he said, he saw condors at Mud Springs, ~~about~~ between the Castro place & Hoosier Camp on Breckenridge Mtn. Last winter he saw 1 near Kern Lake, he said. Of course he doesn't get around the ranch like he used to, he said. He wasn't sure about the relative numbers of cattle in the old days & now-

Gymnogyps californianus

July 18, 1946 Bakersfield, Calif.

Klipstein or Clint McCrae (sp.?) would know, he said (Bakersfield cattlemen). Only one man - ~~Radnick~~ Rudnick (sp.?) now sends sheep to the Cuyama area that he knows of - cotton & potatoes now cover much of the former sheep grazing grounds. As to sheep movements; generally the transient flocks winter on the west side of the San Joaquin (Coalinga), then move east to alfalfa & green feed area in lambing season, then to the desert. On San Emidio Ranch, Blackie Morgan, foreman, knows the country well & is a good observer. To get in the ranch, one must have permission of Mr. Hugh Allen of Bakersfield. Latta said the Kern Co. Land Co. people in general were very uncooperative & hard to get along ~~with~~ with & that Dumble was the ~~ot~~ only one who ever gave any help. The Fickerts who own most of Bear Mtn. are also notoriously uncooperative. ~~I do~~ I left condor watching instructions for Blue Mtn. Lookout at the State Div. of Forestry office. Called at Greenhorn District ~~Ranger~~ U.S.F.S. office & found that they had sent a letter to me dated July 15 telling of about 15 condors being seen by ranger Droege & a Mr. Dean near Round Mtn. this month, & 1 seen from Oak Flat lookout. I drove then to Oak Flat lookout. The relief lookout was on & knew little of condors but thought he had seen a few around. The

Gymnogyps californianus

July 18, 1946 Oak Flat Lookout, ~~Bakersfield~~, Calif.

sky was 6/10 alto-stratus & air hazy - soarability apparently poor. Saw no soaring birds (arrived about 5:30). Phoned Breckenridge Lookout - he said he had seen no condors but two people told him they had seen a "male & female" below "the subdivision" recently.

July 19, 1946 Oak Flat Lookout, Kern Co.

At 7 a.m. I started watching the area from Lucas Creek canyon to Mt. Adelaide, anticipated line of flight. This was about 8 miles, & across Kern River canyon, from the lookout. Sky 4/10 alto-cumulus & cirrus. about 65° & fair N. breeze at 7 a.m., & visibility fair. At 7:45 I saw two turkey vultures soaring about 2 miles E. of adelaide mtn.. By 8:30 saw a few more turkey vultures. Air hot, calm, & sultry - probably poor soaring conditions. By 9:30 saw no condors, watching constantly - and none by 11 a.m. Thunderstorm over Breckenridge mtn. working west. I left the lookout & about 3 miles down the road stopped at Dean Ranch & talked with Mr. Dean: He said he had been there 5 years & had occasionally seen 1 or 2 possible condors but the recent bunch (about 30 he said) was the only group he had seen. The spot where he saw them was about 200 yds. N. of the road near 3 water troughs & a tank about 300 yds. down from the lowest oak trees, in open rolling - grassland

Gymnogyps californianus

July 19, 1946 Nr. ~~Kern River~~ Oak Flat, Kern Co.

country. Dean seemed truthful but not especially interested in wildlife. I am inclined to believe his report but doubt the 30 count. I drove to the Henry Castro ranch on Cottonwood Creek. A caretaker was there who said ~~that~~ that Rudnick (sp.?) had bought the place & others in the area about 2½ years ago. There were some cattle about 5 miles further up the canyon, he said, & about July 1 he had heard there were 15 head dead of 300 in one group there. The deaths were supposedly due to food shortage - this may have ~~attracted~~ the condors here early this month. The caretaker stayed at his house & did not travel about. He said he had been there 2 years. I told him about condors & he said that about 2 hours ago a huge bird with white under its wings had flown down to the creek from the slope opposite his house. He had sneaked up on it & it flapped noisily down the canyon, then soared when above the trees. He noticed no head color. He marked off the estimated wingspread - about 9 ft.! Up to that time he had seen nothing like it, he said. We searched the creek area but found no footprints or feathers or carcasses. There was clear open running water, however. The man had seen buzzards often & was sure it was not one. He was sure it was a condor when I showed him a picture. Vic Barr (sp.?), now a book-

Gymnogyps californianus

July 19, 1946 Nr. Adelaide Mtn., Kern Co.

keep~~per~~er in Bakersfield & raiser of fighting cocks, was raised at this spot, the old boy said. I drove on up Breckenridge Mtn., & hit the rain about at Pine Saddle (local name) about 5 p.m. Camped at head of Lucas Canyon. The rain lasted about an hour only.

July 29, 1946 Breckenridge Mt., Kern Co.

I drove down the road toward Pine Saddle and at 6:10 saw 1 immature condor perched on a limb of a dead pine in bottom of Lucas Creek canyon about 1/4 mile NE of the road. At 6:30 I saw another imm. on tip top of a similar tree 300± yds. further downstream. ~~At 6~~ This one had wings as if ~~[illegible]~~ drying them. Sky 8/10 ~~strato~~ alto-cumulus. At 6:40 I saw 1 adult about 1/4 mile further downstream, also on a limb of dead pine near creek bottom. By 7 p.m. the lower of the two imm. had ~~moved~~ left, but at 7:15 all 3 were in sight, the (same?) two imm. in one tree 300± yds. upstream from adult. These were easily seen from the road about 1/4 mile above Pine Saddle. Breeze faint, temp. 60±°F. These roost trees are among the first pines encountered going up Lucas Creek. The slopes below them are clear for flight, being largely grassy with scattered oaks & brush. About a dozen fine roost trees here, all near canyon bottom. Most are straight with ~~broken~~ stub branches, & conspicuously whitened, & 1/4 to 1/2 mile from the road. The canyon is steep so ~~that~~ a

Gymnogyps californianus

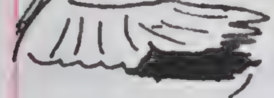
July 20, 1946 Breckenridge Mtn., Calif.

clear flight path is provided. Large dead conifers higher on the slopes, & near the road, showed no whitening of condor-like nature. Condors, like aircraft, have a certain "radius of action" and must have bases (roosts) from which to work. These are distributed throughout their range - Gordon Creek, Breckenridge Mtn., Hopper Canyon, Sisquoc, McChesney Mtn., Castle Mtn. - & possibly others - all rather equally distributed in linear miles. The two immatures had worked their way to top of their tree - about 7:30 ~~they~~ one left, ~~& one~~ and perched on tip top of a green pine 100± yds. downhill, then left about 7:35. The adult remained on same perch as when I first saw it, & preened. Sky 6/10 alto-cumulus & clearing; no wind. Though near the road, these roost trees are well screened from public view by large conifers near roadside. Little traffic on the road no - since 5 p.m. yesterday, perhaps 5 cars beside mine. There are granite outcroppings in Lucas Creek canyon which might afford nesting caves, but no whitewash apparent on these. The roost trees are conspicuous by their whiteness - they are barkless & mostly quite straight, about 100' high, with ~~bran~~ sparse or stub branches of about 4" diameter (perhaps 6"). A man who had a house at Pine Saddle rode by; I asked him if there were any condors around here - he said "no condors, but quite a few eagles". I didn't disillusion him. 8:05, the adult lay flat on its limb perch, facing up canyon. Air calm still. Perch branch was about 6' from tip top of the

oford

Gymnogyps californianus

July 20, 1946 Breckenridge Mtn., Calif.

tree. It is perhaps ~~notable that~~ the 2 immatures perched further up the canyon than adult, at higher elevation, & were much more active in morning. Some cattle are ranged ~~on~~ in this area - I saw 3 Hereford's about 1/4 mile from adult. Sky 9/10 alto-stratus. 8:30, I saw ~~that~~ one imm. was perched flat on a lower branch of dead tree 200± yds. uphill from adult - ~~it had~~ only one left there about 7:30. Adult sunned earlier this ~~morning~~ morning when sun was out, but not since clouded up. Adult had a bit of down or a small feather sticking from its frontal feathers - this caused no apparent discomfort. 9:05, the imm. had moved to a 3±' higher branch & stood facing E. (about 3 yr. imm.) 9:24, the imm. was again on its former branch & crouched flat. 9:44, diffused sunshine, faint breeze; the adult rose & stretched right wing down & somewhat forward so that it bore against perch branch - , then folded again. Clouds breaking up. 9:48, two imm. no standing in the upper tree, about 2 & 3 yr. olds, one 6±' above other & 20±' below tree tops. 9:50, the upper (2 yr.) down to same branch as other imm. 9:53, sunshine - adult sunned under side. The immatures stood with wings spread, nearly facing, & one several times snapped out at other with bill. Both about 3 yr. olds - orange necks but black heads & ~~no~~ poorly defined wing bar. 9:56, adult sunned back, left wing tip on opposite side of trunk from body of bird. 9:58, occasional puff of fair breeze. One imm. took off

Gymnogyps californianus

July 20, 1946 Breckenridge Mtn, Kern Co.

but soared low back up canyon near perched birds. The adult & other imm. stood facing down canyon, ~~adult~~ both preening. 10:03, adult stretched left wing out & down. Normally it seems each wing is stretched once before first morning flight. 10:05, other imm. off. Adult did a deep "wind bow", tail flopping up high, then resumed standing - about a minute later it was gone. I saw two then, circling very low in the canyon below these roost trees & the slopes near them. One alighted in a dead pine about 200 yds. down from adult's perch - then off in about a minute. About 2 minutes later two appeared below & ~~be~~ behind adult's roost tree & flap-glided down Lucas Canyon over the S. slope with increasing speed, 50± ft. apart - this appeared to be the two immatures. Perhaps this roosting area could be better viewed from the more open area of the N. side of Lucas Creek canyon. I drove down to Wheeler Ridge & up Salt Creek Canyon. Stopped to talk to "Salt Creek Pete" who has been in this area 23 years & has prospected much. He was very active & intelligent & friendly. He said he sometimes saw condors in spring over his place as if they were coming from Dead Man Canyon - there were many large limestone cliffs there. About 6 weeks ago, he ~~say~~ said he saw 12 over his place, high up. ~~In~~ 6 years ago when many cattle died of blackleg he saw them feeding on the cattle. He recalled having seen none in other areas:

nr. road

~~10 yrs ago – 15 from dead steer~~ ^ ~~next can. S.~~ – late spr. or summer.

~~Causes of [illegible].~~

~~Occas. 1 or 2 last few yrs.~~

~~3 or 4 – 6 or 8 yrs ago.~~

~~None seen at Dev. Kitch.~~

~~25 yrs. – this area, used to have sheep in mts. til grass died – no sheep.~~

Cattle – ~~few~~ dead here – in mts. esp. in winter. –

Perh. ~~fewer now than~~ form.

Gymnogyps californianus

July 20, 1946 Salt Creek, Kern Co.

he prospected, including the Tehachapis. He estimated the condor wingspread at "about 8 feet" - the first underestimator I have encountered. I drove on then & dropped down into Pleito Canyon, Gene Harris place. He proved to be a cousin of Walter Harris of Bryson. He, & especially his wife, were very interested in birds. Harris said he had been living there for about 25 years. For the last 3 years he had worked for ~~Kern Co Land Co.~~ San Emigdio Ranch & rode the upper hills. He had worked in Devil's Kitchen area for some time but never saw any condors there. The only bunch he had ever seen was about 10 years ago when he flushed about 15 from a dead steer in Salt Creek Canyon - near road, in open rolling grassy country (late spring or summer). Otherwise he had seen 1 or 2 occasionally in last few years, & occasionally 3 or 4 about 6 or 8 years ago. Harris said there used to be sheep in these mountains until the feed dried up. When Hugh Allen took over the "Land Co.", the sheep were disposed of (possibly about 1925). Cattle are in the mountains here except in winter, Harris said, but he has seldom found any dead. He believes cattle numbers less now than formerly - the range used to be overstocked more than now. Harris rides the hills often & seems observant - his lack of condor sightings indicates there are not many of the birds here. He believes the lack of sheep might explain this. At Chuchupate Ranger Station I talked with Ranger Bill Meyer. He said that about

Gymnogyps californianus

July 20, 1946 Nr. Frazier Park, Calif.

1942, in summer, he saw 3 condors near the road on Frazier mtn. One was in air, one in a tree & one on the ground. About 200 ft. from the bird on ground was an old doe carcass - a couple of years old & picked clean, Meyer said. He found no other carcasses. During the war, Frazier Mtn., Thorn Pt., & Mt. Pinos were manned in winter as plane lookouts. Thorn Pt. only is manned on this ranger district now. The lookout (named Johnson) is said to have taken a close picture of a perched condor there this year. A guard said he saw a condor & buzzard on a carcass back (w. of) Lebec (O'Neil Canyon, 3 miles air-line from Lebec) ~~pumping station~~ about 2 weeks ago. Meyer said that last year he saw a condor (adult) perched on rocks near Thorn Pt. Lookout, & tried to sneak up on it to get a picture - the bird flew, ~~but~~ and M. got a distant flight shot (I saw it - a condor adult).

July 21, 1946 Nr. Frazier Park, Calif.

In Cuddy Valley I visited R C "Bob" Cuddy, about 70 yrs. old, who was born & raised there. He was interested in birds somewhat & told me that curlews, egrets, stilts, & other shore birds used to land there. He said his father was a "cattle king" there but that the "forest reserve" put them out of the cattle business. There used to be sheep there too, run by Kern Co. Land Co. & several Frenchmen. He said flocks of 25 to 50 condors used to come in & continue north, & that they perched on rocks on Sawmill mountain. When working about 6 yrs. ago near the head

Gymnogyps californianus

July 21, 1946 Nr. Frazier Park, Calif.

of the "Escapura" (sp?) - Salt Creek area - he saw 4 condors perched on ~~high cliffs~~ cliffs there. Last time he was there he saw only 3, he said, so figured 1 was shot. They were not there in winter but came in in spring, he said. Once he found a dead one (about 10 yrs. ago) which he thought was shot. I doubt any of this information is accurate but record it anyway, CK. I phoned Rex Coppernoll, lookout at Tejon Lookout (county - Gorman). He thought he had seen a condor there once this season. Cuddy said he had read an article (in a paper) by Condon (Jerry?) once which said that condors wintered in the lower Sespe. I drove to Liebre Mtn. near Sandbergs & talked with L.A. Co. fire woman there; he had been here several years but took no interest in birds. He thought he had seen 1 or 2 occasionally. At the weather station were two men & wife of one; they had been here 2 years but had seen no condors. One gets a good view of the W. end of Antelope Valley & S. side of Tehachapis from here (Bald Mtn.). The Baily Ranch is now G.E. Kinsey ranch. Apparently only cattle are run there, ~~A~~ but I saw only a few.

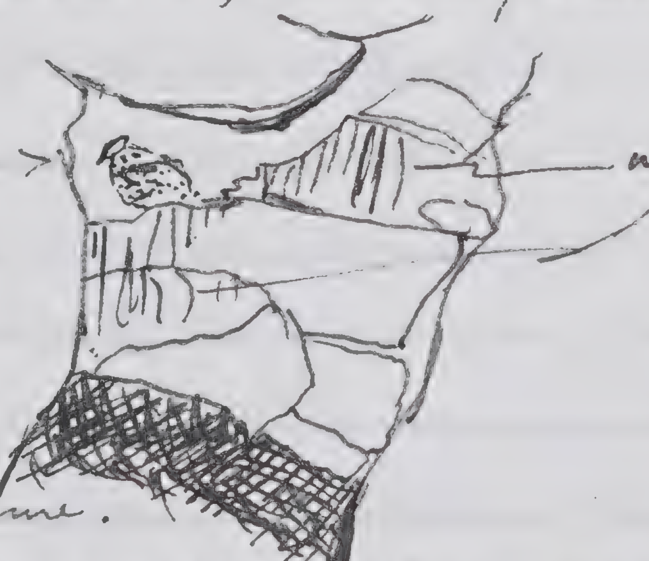
July 23, 1946 Nr. Squaw Flat, Ventura Co.

Drove up the Squaw Flat road from Fillmore. There was a locked gate with several locks at Oak Flat. At 10:20 left my car at foot of Whiteacre Pk. trail & hiked up the canyon to

Gymnogyps californianus

July 23, 1946 Nr. Squaw Flat, Ventura Co.

east toward #13 nest. By 10:40 I could see the nest cave. At 11:20 I was on the slope about 200' below and 300 yds. ~~E.~~ W. of the nest cave. I saw the chick standing about 2' back from entrance, quietly. It was dark gray & down covered, with a fringe of 3± " feathers on wing. It stood sideways to entrance for about 15 minutes before changing position. Head ~~append~~ appeared dark gray in color, black in frontal area. I saw no condors at the roosting trees near nest. Day warm & muggy - overcast with alto stratus, 9/10, but quite bright, & little breeze. There was considerable whitewash at cave entrance, running down the rock for about 3'.

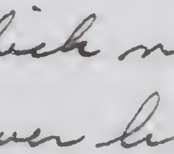


About 11:50 the chick went back out of sight - perhaps it was just out to watch me.

At about 12:30 I moved to foot of Deer meadow, about 150' below & 400 yds. W. of nest. I saw chick standing about 4' ~~from~~ inside entrance at 12:30, & quiescent - gone from sight a few minutes later. 2 p.m.; sky 7/10 alto stratus & alto cumulus; fair W. breeze. At 2:05 one adult circled over the Rim above #13 nest, then over #13 nest roost trees, then continued on to S. - feet were never down

Gymnogyps californianus

July 23, 1946 Nr. Squaw Flat, Ventura Co.

so probably not this nest adult. Had gap in region of outer secondaries. 2:52, another adult circled above cliffs on W. side of Whiteacre Pk., glided S. over the rim, circled over cliffs above #13 nest roost trees, then glided S. again. 3:12, I saw the chick come into sunshine about 2' in cave. It shook head, seemed to peck at floor, & stretched left wing out. This wing showed a whitish line on under side. Head was grayish flesh color. The chick stood with head & half body in direct sunshine. Only 3/10 overcast now. Wing showed at least 2 feather rows - remiges & greater coverts, probably. 3:20, the chick did a "wing bow" with wings high & flexed, & head down to floor, then stood up & held bill wide open for 3± seconds. 3:24, chick nibbled at top of whitewash about 2" down over brink at nest entrance, & I saw a few flakes fall. Then it stretched wings up & forward , & I saw that white under stripe was apparently the row of quill bases, & the area of future white patch was darker gray than the down fore & aft of it. 3:29, chick preened at top of ruff, nibbling, then opened bill wide & put it to floor, then stood & stretched right wing slowly down & out, over brink of nest, & again folded wing. 3:35, again stretched right wing down & out, but as before without putting head to floor or

Gymnogyps californianus

July 23, 1946 Nr. Squaw Flat, Ventura Co.

stretching leg simultaneously. Preened between wing feathers from front + outside, bill probing + nibbling between feathers. 3:37, chick stood at very brink of cave, facing in; a few long silky filaments on pygostyle waved in the breeze. 3:40, again stretched right wing to floor + refolded it. 3:43, stretched left (or both) wings high – touching the ceiling. 3:45, faced out of hole again. Stretched wings up, wrists apparently touching ceiling. Retired nearly out of sight, then out to edge again at 3:46½, then back in shade about 4' from entrance (3:47). The chick is quite active at this time, apparently. No crop bulge noted. 3:53, front 1/3 ~~back~~ out in sunshine, & chick preening vigorously. About 3/4 mile away, + easily audible, a duck hawk was attacking an eagle, but the chick paid no apparent attention. 4 p.m., chick 1/4 in sunshine, standing, head moving about occasionally. Light w. breeze still. Chick preened for several minutes, + poked about the rock ~~at~~ on S. side of cave with bill. By 4:30, chick was at same spot + had shown little more action. Sky 9/10 alto-stratus again. 4:32, chick out of sight in cave. Perhaps the adults do not roost close to nest at this stage as there has been no sign of them. Saw no more of chick either by 5 p.m., so left. Anita Peyton accompanied Vorhies of Univ. of Arizona up to Hopper Ran recently. They stayed around

Gymnogyps californianus

July 23, 1946 Fillmore, Calif.

Pemberton Rock & saw several condors, Sid P. told me. Ranger Lyda & Gene Percy were riding on Hopper Rim & in Big Meadow today - they saw no condors but did see a bear.

July 24, 1946 Nr. Hopper Mtn, Calif.

Ed Harrison arrived at Fillmore about 12:30. We killed the calf at Sid Peyton's & drove to Hopper Rim, arriving about 3 p.m. Air hot, sky completely overcast with alto-stratus. We repaired the blind in Big Meadow & left calf & equipment there, then went to head of canyon to camp. We saw no condors though searched with binocs - visibility poor because of haze.

July 25, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Ventura Co.

Ed Harrison got in the blind in Big Meadow, & I set the calf out about 150' from blind on the open slope. Wired calf down at chest & groin, & cut belly & ribs open longitudinally. Carcass was stiff now and weighed about 70 pounds. Warm, no clouds but considerable haze so visibility poor. I left calf at 7:20 & went to Pyramid Lookout to watch. From there I could see the blind but not the carcass. I could not spot any condors roosting. Occasional light E. breeze by 8 a.m. By 9 a.m., sky 1/10 cumulus, occasional fair E. breeze - no condors or buzzards seen so far. Water at Condor

Gymnogyps californianus

July 25, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

Falls appeared not to be running. At 9:20 I saw first turkey vultures (?-long range) soaring. 9:24, one adult condor appeared just beyond Rim to W. of me, soared back & forth, then S. into head of Parking Canyon as if to cross the pass there or to alight. Rather large dihedral angle, & this bird had feet down for about 1 minute once. No crop bulge. Breeze became more steady about this time. 9:31, I saw one adult circling 400±' over Spring Canyon Mdw. working up the slope to W.. When 300±' above Rim, it glided N., then circled above N. Rim, then headed in a straight glide to over East Canyon. Here it joined, & chased, another condor at 9:42, then, descending, glided to 300±' over Arundell Ridge & was joined by another (9:47). At 9:50, the two circled & rose above Arundell Ridge. 9:48, one adult soared 500±' over ~~B~~ Big Meadow - it circled lower & passed 100±' over the bait, then landed in next to highest Near Roost Tree at 9:50. ~~At le~~ So 3 seen at once, at least 2 & probably all adults. 9:55, one circled over Spring Canyon Mdw. ~~Canyon~~ & rose to 1000±'; then N. & circled over N. Rim to 1500±'; then glided SE to about over East Canyon, then back over Spring Mdw. at 800±' at 10:11. The perched adult moved up 100± yds. to highest roost tree (Near Roost Tree) at 10:10. The 9:31 bird passed at one time about 1½

Gymnogyps californianus

July 25, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

miles from & in plain sight of self, but apparently did not see it. 10:27, an imm. (est. 2 yr.) circled 1/4 mile NE of me, then over Rim, then headed N. 10:28, no adult in highest Near Roost Tree, but one 100± yds. down from it & another in a tree 100± yds further down. The upper took off, circled 100±' over the bait & blind, then glided low over Rock Ridge & circled there (10:30). The other took off about 10:30 & glided fast down into Water Tank Canyon, turned one circle, & disappeared heading N. as if to alight in cliffs at N. side of Water Tank Canyon ~~oppos~~ opposite foot of Rock Ridge (have seen this before - nest?). 10:41, one soared S. about 300' over me; two circled low over Big Meadow, & I saw 2 now perched in Near Roost Tree (5, all adults). One or two circlers ~~put~~ had feet down at times; one wandered off over Parking Knoll. (10:47). Fair W. breeze, sky 2/10 cumulus. 10:48, all 3 with legs down, 2 circling low over carcass (100±') & below tops of Near Roost Trees. 10:50, the two landed in second & third highest of these roost trees, so 4 perched within 1/4 mile of carcass at 10:50 (to windward of it). Cool now - perhaps 70°F. 10:59, one of highest pair took off & circled about over carcass & blind. Lowest left about 11:01, & next to lowest about 11:02 - to? I saw 1 adult perched on tip top of a stub about 1/2 mile SE of carcass - this

ford

Gymnogyps californianus

July 25, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.
one appeared: on 40±' stub + was off by 11:05. The last perched one, from Near Roost Tree, took off down canyon at 11:06, glided fast over Rock Ridge, + circled over E. slope of that ridge with another adult. 11:11, one circled 300±' over Big Mdw.; then with another, both with ~~feat~~ feet down, circled low about ½ mile SW of calf + disappeared behind Parking Knoll (11:15). 11:18, I saw 1 adult was perched on top branch of Parking Roost Tree, + another two. circling 300±' over bait again. 11:22, I saw 1 adult on top branch of next to highest Near Roost Tree again, preening. 11:25, an adult soared up canyon over Near Roost Tree, then down, then up + swooped to a landing there - so 2 perched, the one in Parking Roost Tree gone, + 1 soaring S. near W. side of Parking Knoll. By 11:34, one again perched in Parking Roost Tree (3 visible perched). Fair cool W. breeze - very hazy to W.. 11:39, I saw there were 2 adults in Near Roost Tree, so 4 perched visible. 11:52, the adult on Parking Roost Tree left + soared N. just W. of Rim. Two golden eagles soared above it for ½± mile, at times within about 100', but no interaction. Adult had feet down for ½± ~~mi~~ mile. It circled + rose to W. of Old Cabin, then circled again + rose in Small Meadow vicinity until 1500±' above Rim, then headed NE as if toward the Rim (12:02). The 3 perched adults as before, 1 squatted flat on branch. 12:15, the lower bird on Near Roost Tree had apparently moved to

3294

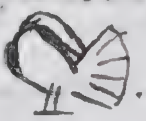
Gymnogyps californianus

July 25, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Ventura Co.

the third highest tree there. With a crouch & spring, this adult jumped to 3±' higher perch in same tree - and 3±' higher yet by 12:20 (a stub branch, 12±" long). It is about 200 yds. from closest condor to carcass. 12:24, this last adult crouched flat on perch. 12:25, this adult took off quickly, soared low over the bait, & continued on across Hopper Canyon - I lost it at 12:30 against dark brush. The next highest adult left about 12:30 - to? - leaving 1 only perched, & this last left about 12:45. 1 p.m., I saw that 1 adult was perched on a top branch of dead Ps. about 150 yds. NW of carcass & facing it. Have seen no turkey vultures or ravens in the carcass vicinity today, or anywhere near it. 1:12, an adult now also on Near Roost Tree. Yet another condor was atop a live oak about 100 yds. uphill from carcass. At 1:21, highest adult took off & skimmed this oak; the other took off & both swooped low over blind. Third adult also took off, & all 3 landed in a tall dead Ps. about 100 yds. NNE of bait, separated vertically about 10 & 15'. By 1:27, ~~upper two~~ one (middle one) had gone, leaving ~~only 1~~ 2 visible perched (adult), ~~20~~ about 25' apart vertically; ~~1:36, this adult moved to 15±' higher branch & stood facing carcass~~. 1:44, I saw a third adult in Near Roost Tree. By 2 p.m., no change - all 3 adults stood facing away from bait. Heavy cumulus clouds to NW; fair cool W. breeze; visibility good in Hopper Canyon. 2:30, the adults quite in-

Gymnogyps californianus

July 25, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

active, occasionally preening. 3 p.m., still no action - 1 adult was crouched flat & another had shifted to another branch at same ~~bar~~ level. One adult preened at rump, head over back, tail brought forward to side . Then brushed back with chin & neck, from scapulars back, over right then left sides, about 4 wipes per side. Later preened side from over back, wing slightly out from body. Then anal region with tail fanned & held nearly vertically & brought forward . 3:12, a third adult now in tree 100± yds. NNE of bait. One about 4' above another, reaching its bill down toward the one below. The lower sprang up to higher perch & the upper flew off, circled back, & landed 20±' lower in same tree. Fourth adult alone as before. 3:19, I saw one descend from 1 branch to another about 3 "steps" of about 4, 5, & 8', each by carefully looking over next step, then jumping with feet together, wings rising in falling, & landing on the new perch. In moving out a branch, adult sidestepped, moving 1 foot at a time. Three were 10±' apart in lower tree; middle had descended 20±' & seemed very interested in the lowest; lowest seemed to look over the middle one; both of these off at 3:25, to ? Two, probably same, circled & rose over the E. Rim opposite me at 3:28. Two adults still perched, ~~th~~ one flat on the branch (up 3:31) - the latter took

Gymnogyps californianus

July 25, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Ventura Co.

off downhill & soared SE over Big Mdw. - by 3:34 there was another adult on its perch (in Near Roost Tree). The perched adult NNE of bait now lay flat on branch (3:35). Apparently the condors are not ready to take the bait yet - not "ripe" enough? 3:44, now 2 adults at same level about 6' apart on roost tree nearest bait, & third as before. By 4 p.m., no change in these 3. Fair wind from W. now. About 4:10 one of the 2 left & the one in Near Roost Tree, so only one adult left perched near Big Mdw. 4:15, I saw 1 circling & rising over the E. Rim. It headed N. over East Canyon & circled briefly with 2 others, then S. for about 1 mile & circled with 1 other, then headed W. with several dips & swooped up to land (at 4:27) in Near Roost Tree! The other adult (perched) as before. Soarability of air apparently good - very clear in canyon, & fair wind from W.. 4:30, the adult 100± yds. from bait was flat on branch, facing the sun, the bare crop bulging over front of branch. 4:35, this bird rose, extended wings V, folded them, again raised them, & took off to NW, ~~[illegible]~~ turning downhill quickly & gliding fast downhill toward Rock Ridge. 4:40, adult (same?) glided over Big Mdw. & landed in Near Roost Tree. The 4:35 adult showed crop bulge even in flight - Ed had flushed this bird by leaving blind. I left lookout & went to Parking Place. Met Ed there. He had seen 3 condors in Near Roost Tree & 2 in lower trees on the

Gymnogyps californianus

July 23, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

way up the trail. At 5 p.m. there were 2 in Near Roost Tree & 2 in double-topped tree about 300 yds. further downhill. I went down & covered calf carcass to discourage coyotes. Saw one condor cross foot of Big Mdw. & circle low in South Canyon at about 5:20. At head of trail saw only 1 left in Near Roost Trees - adult in the double-topped one. Breeze light & sky nearly clear. Went to camp. Ed said that when he left the blind he kept trees between himself & the nearby perched condor & it did not flush until he was about 1/4 mile away. We discussed communication of food finding between birds - Ed said that when working with JRP in the Cuyama, he noted that when one condor found food the others quickly gathered in that vicinity.

July 26, 1946

At about 6:30 a.m. Ed H. was in the blind. I uncovered the calf which was already swarming with about 100 flies & wasps, was swollen, & stinking so that we noted odor 200 yards uphill. Coyotes had not molested the carcass. I went then to Pyramid Lookout, arriving 6:55 a.m. Saw no perched condors. In South Canyon noted I could see no whitened trees indicating little or no roosting there, but many whitened trees in the Big Meadow area - Near Roost Trees & the dead *Pseudotsugas* below the meadow. At 7 a.m. sky clear, light w. breeze, about 65°F. I saw

ford

Gymnogyps californianus

July 26, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

water running well at Caldwater Canyon falls, dry at falls at Oil Well Point. 8:25, breeze faint; I saw one adult soar out of foot of South Canyon & alight atop a stub about 3/8 mile SE of the bait & possibly in sight of it. 8:27, a second adult (#9 right primary short) circled 100±' over bait, rose above the Rim, then soared 200±' over me, then about 1/2 mile SE & back, then 1/2 mile NNW where it circled 200±' above Rim (8:40). 8:41, the perched one was gone, & 2 adults circled 200±' over head of Big Mdw.. These 2 circled & rose above Parking Knoll, & 1 passed N. 200±' over me at 8:45, then headed E.; second headed SE about 1 mile, then N., then back to W. in South Canyon as if descending (8:53). Breeze faint to light from SE., sky 1/10 cirrus. 8:55, I saw 1 atop highest dead tree atop Rock Ridge. 9:05, I saw 2 perched in shade about 8' S. of the middle pool at Condor Falls - saw none there yesterday, but cool so maybe not thirsty. 9:10, one was about 1 ft. from pool edge. Second walked to pool edge at 9:20. Both possibly drank and/or bathed - in shadow of rock. 9:20, one walked into sunshine at N. side of pool. The other emerged from pool flapping, as if having bathed, then walked into sunshine beside other & shook up its feathers. 9:26, one apparently in pool, flapping; it emerged & flapped wings 7± times as if to dry them, then walked & hopped up rocks to a point about 15' S. & 8' above pool (in shade).

Gymnogyps californianus

July 26, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

9:30, one on that point flapped wings, held high, 6± times as if to dry them, & repeated at 9:32. 9:35 - one in sunshine about 15' N. & 8' above the pool; & 1 or 2 in the shade ~~in po~~ on points to S. of pool. 9:40, 1 still atop tree on Rock Ridge. 9:41, I saw one flap down canyon from shade near Condor Falls - by 10 a.m. I saw no more condors there. 10:33, the perched one on Rock Ridge took off, circled & rose over the E. slopes until 500±' over me, bore N. until over N. Rim & circled, then to over Whitacre Pk. & circled, then in a long glide until disappeared at 10:50 apparently crossing top of Cobblestone Mtn. By 2:30 saw no more condors. Ed left blind & we returned to Fillmore. The bait now was in very stinking state & we did not believe condors would come to it.

July 27, 1946 Nr. Gorman, Calif.

At Tejon Guard Station I phoned Thorn Point Lookout, a man named Johnston (or Johnson). He had been there since June 16 & had watched for condors. The most he had seen at once was 3, 2 adults & 1 immature. They seemed to appear in late afternoon, around 4 p.m., & headed S or SE. He thought they came from the Sespe to W. of lookout. Within the last two weeks he had seldom seen one except that on the 21st. one immature alighted on the rocks near the lookout & some pictures were taken of it. He thought this bird must be sick to allow

Gymnogyps californianus

July 27, 1946 Nr. Gorman, Calif.

such close approach. Occasionally he had seen condors perch on rocks to SE(?) of ~~to SE of~~ lookout but some distance away (a fair hike). This man had pictures & descriptions so I believe his identification accurate. The guard at Tejon Guard Station said he occasionally saw condors high overhead in that vicinity, & once saw 3 or 4 at together, ~~one time~~ circling. He too had one ~~two~~ of my condor pictures, but I have ~~some~~ doubt about his identification. In Bakersfield I again visited F F Latta. Recently he had asked Mary Pohut, a Wuckchumne Indian woman about 80 years old, about condors. This tribe is on the Tule ~~Tuya (sp.?)~~ River & Mary lives near Woodlake. She said they had no condor dance or song but did have a story. Henry Laurence of Visalia, a Yaulumne Indian, told him a blind Indian at Tule River used to put a condor feather in his hair every morning. He said he used to see a condor dance in which they wore 1 feather in their hair (a mid-winter dance). The condor is called "Wee-itch" (phonetic) by the Indians. An old timer named Hahn (sp.?) ~~thought~~ told Latta the condors disappeared around 1850 & he thought this was caused by the putting out of poison bait for coyotes. Latta ~~thought that~~ John Peabody Harrington of Santa Ana might have gotten some condor dope from the Indians; David B. Rogers of Santa Barbara (museum) knows his address &

Gymnogyps californianus

July 27, 1946 Bakersfield, Calif.

may ~~say~~ also have some condor information. The Indians around Bakersfield, the Youlumne, had a condor dance & song & story, said Latta. Latta also said that at ~~so~~ Canfield Ranch between Bakersfield & Maricopa he saw 3 condors on a carcass in May, & ~~2 a~~ some others in air there.

August 22, 1946 Nr. Castle Mtn., Monterey Co.

Allie Lewis, who lives near Turkey Flat & rides the hills near there, said he saw 3 condors at a water trough about 2 months ago - I rather doubt this as it sounds like a story he told me before. He said the condors were on trough & he at first thought they were catching frogs.

Aug. 24, 1946 Castle Mtn., Kings Co.

Spent the 23 & 24th hunting deer in the Castle Mtn. area including the cliff tops at head of Arroyo Pinoso, & looked down several times on the roost trees there. The trees had bare whitened branches where the condors formerly perched, but I saw no condors during this visit. There were about 150 cattle on the mountain above Dark Hole spring, many in poor condition.

August 31, 1946 Nr. Porterville, Calif.

I drove up the Tule River to home of Walter Richardson, 5 miles ESE of Porterville,

Gymnogyps californianus

August 31, 1946 Nr. Porterville, Calif.

and saw perhaps 50 turkey vultures over the valley. At about 10:15 at Richardson's house I saw about 6 vultures* & an immature condor circling over the dry oat hillside about 1/4 mile SE of the house. About 10:20 I saw ~~1 con~~ 2 in air there. ~~At one time I saw 1 perched on hillside near a rock outcropping there~~. I talked with the hired man, Mr. Birchfield. He said his son Jim (16 yrs.) worked at squirrel poisoning this year, & saw large vultures with white patches which were probably condors. He first saw these about 1/2 mile E. of the power line which is about 2 miles E. of Richardson's house. Later he worked east of Exeter & saw them there - up to 6 sure at once - and & seemed to hang around especially early & late. These were seen during August & reportedly seen up to a week ago. About 11:00 I saw 2 condors, adult & imm., circling at 300±' about 3/8 mile S. of Richardson's house over the dry grassy hills (10± turkey vultures also). Birchfield thought they probably had been poisoning squirrels on the next ranch west ~~south~~. His son had seen the condors in Yokal (sp.?) Valley on the Gill Ranch on the road from Exeter

Gymnogyps californianus

August 31, 1946 Nr. Porterville, Calif.

to Springville (first about 3 miles toward Springville from main ranch house). About 11:15 I saw an adult & imm. together about 300 yds. S.W. of Richardson's house. About noon I walked up into the dry oat hills SW of the house where I saw about 25 turkey vultures circling. I found one dried up ground squirrel carcass, hide turned inside out, & a vulture feather near it. Saw but 1 squirrel tho many trails & burrows. Found yellow "oats", the kind used by "1080" poisoners, at some holes, so squirrels are probably what the vultures & condors are after here. This is a clear warm day with fair breeze from W. After about 11:30 I saw no condors - left about 12:30.

December 27, 1946 Carmel, Calif.

Visited Lloyd Tevis and his father who live close to Carmel Mission. The elder Tevis is of a family that owned much of Kern Co. Land and Cattle Co.. He used to live at Stockdale & roamed the hills of San Emigdio Ranch to collect reptiles & bats for J. Grinnell. He said that Jock Douglas, ranch superintendent, told him that condors were formerly all over the ranch (told

1907-08 Mr. Oaks Spec. – 4 of [illegible]

[illegible]. [illegible] – 8 [illegible]

no food in [illegible] [illegible].

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

about 10

[illegible]

Gymnogyps californianus

December 27, 1946 Carmel, Calif.

when Tevis a boy). Douglas (now dead) "was a good observer & interested in wildlife, Tevis said. Tevis said his father told him he had seen condors in Devil's Kitchen. Once J. Grinnell told Tevis the condor was practically extinct (about 1907-08). A few days later on the way to "Oak Spring" ~~me~~ north of Devil's Kitchen (San Emigdio canyon), Tevis saw 18 on ~~an~~ a SE slope and approached within about 10 yards (with team?). The condors flew from the steep rise. No food or water were evident. About 1905-06 Tevis said he saw one on a hillside and thought at first it was a boulder. He practically "knew every rock in those hills" at that time. The bird flew - it was identified as a condor; Tevis told Grinnell of this. ~~He~~ Tevis may have seen condors on other occasions but could recall none; he had not known or looked for them until Grinnell told him of them. Lloyd Tevis (about 26 yrs.) said he saw 1 condor in the Sequoia in summer in 1938 (near South Fork Camp apparently).

January 14, 1947 Berkeley, Calif.

Having just reviewed some literature on the "Sewall Wright effect", it occurs to me that this effect might apply to condors. In a

oford

Gymnogyps californianus

January 14, 1947 Berkeley, Calif.

population of a small effective breeding ~~po~~ number, certain genes tend to become fixed & others lost, by chance, regardless of selection. So - non-adaptive differences might become fixed. The species would lose its variability - become homogeneous. ~~Increase in selection pres~~ It ~~no~~ eventually would wander from its adaptive peak & possibly thus become extinct by non-adaptive (or deleterious) change. If environment changed, the species would not be able to change & adapt itself to new conditions. Perhaps Wright's concept would fit condors - in certain respects. They do seem to be an isolated interbreeding group. To preserve condors we might find ourselves changing the environment to suit their non-adaptive trends. Condors do seem to be specialized - especially physiologically - in comparison with more successful birds.

January 17, 1947 Berkeley, Calif.

Mr. Cronemiller, in charge of wild life in the forest region including the Los Padres, visited ~~the~~ M.V.Z. to discuss condors with me.

Gymnogyps californianus

January 17, 1947 Berkeley, Calif.

We talked of various aspects of life history as related to protection. He seemed very interested and anxious to take action, especially as to closing the Hopper Canyon area and closing the road to that area. I gave him a condor photo (11x14).

January 22, 1947 Berkeley, Calif.

Cronemiller phoned from S.F. and said he had seen Work's condor film at Stanford last evening. He had been ~~annoyed~~ annoyed at the rough way the chick was handled. The locale was kept a great secret, especially as Cronemiller had warned Wiggins (Stanford botany prof who introduced Work) about this. The show was apparently some weekly gathering including townspeople. Cronemiller was strong for the sanctuary + had written Washington a preliminary letter. His idea was to include Whiteacre Peak + to tie in with the Sespe Game Refuge, but he had not recommended specific boundaries yet. He believed it may be necessary to get funds from the N.A.S. for a patrol as the Forest Service cant handle this entirely. The area, Cronemiller believes, is

Gymnogyps californianus

January 22, 1947 Berkeley, Calif.

not one in which they want hunters & other persons even regardless of condors (fire hazard high). Work was coming to visit Cronemiller this day.

January 23, 1947 Berkeley, Calif.

Had a talk with T. Work at C.O.C. meeting. He said he will send me some of his condor notes and a set of photo prints for perusal. He had talked to Cronemiller about condors a few days ago - Cronemiller had not mentioned that he thought the pictures showed rough handling of the chick. I warned Work about publicizing action toward closing a forest area, and requested him to omit ~~any~~ my name from his film or talks on condors. He said he saw 26 birds in Hopper Basin a couple of weeks ago.

February 14, 1947 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

At 3:15 p.m. arrived at Hopper Rim having seen no condors on the way. Clear day; sky 2/10 cirro-stratus; light E. breeze. At 3:20 from Pyramid LO I saw one perched in a tall dead Pseudotsuga about 1/4 mile SE of Big Meadow. Apparently some water running at Condor Falls. The Pole Canyon road dry and in excellent condition (comparatively). I

Gymnogyps californianus

February 14, 1947 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

got the key to the road by merely asking Mrs. Frank Philips for it, without even stating my business. The key is kept on a nail in the chicken house, accessible to anyone. The above condor still there at 4:20 – perhaps a lethargic immature. At 4:03 one came E. over Hopper Rim about ½ mile N. of the lookout & when last seen (4:10) was descending slowly feet down, as if to alight on Arundell Ridge. ~~At 4:30 I saw an adult – same? – atop a green Pseudotsuga on Arundell Ridge. Fair E. breeze, & cool.~~ Fair E. breeze, & cool, at 4:45 when I left the lookout. Saw no more condors. Camped at head of canyon.

February 15, 1947

Morning clear and warm. At 9:30 a.m. we left the car at head of the tractor trail & hiked toward Big Cave along cliff tops. At 9:50 we saw 10 condors, 4 over Hopper Mtn. and 6 over Arundell Ridge, all circling as if recently leaving the roosts. At 10 a.m. I saw 7 in one bunch high over Arundell Ridge, circling & rising. Apparently all worked up over the W. Rim. At 10:12 I saw 5 over the W. Rim near Old Cabin. At 10:25 we arrived at the pool atop Big Cave. The water was clear, but only a trickle ran over the falls. We found no tracks in the sand of the pool or near it, nor any feathers

Gymnogyps californianus

February 15, 1947 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

or fresh whitewash there. Whitewash Ledge did not seem to have any fresh whitewash. My old blind was still atop the cliff as before. We descended the cliff and searched for feathers below the cave + ledges — we found no fresh feathers. Perhaps the birds are seldom using the cave area for roosting this year. At 10:40, as we were about to leave cliff top, an adult passed about 150' over ~~as~~ us, then turned W. and descended to alight atop Flat Ps. on Arundell Ridge. We were at the pool below falls at 11:00, then hiked downstream to tractor trail (11:30), then up this trail to the road (12:10). It was rather sultry, overcast with cirro-stratus, then. As we drove from the North Ridge area, two adults soared 100± over us + circled over North Ridge (not over car). We left for Fillmore + saw T. Work's car parked at Parking Place. I suppose he was trying to get feeding pictures in Big Meadow.

February 21, 1947 Berkeley, Calif.

In the Milton Ray collection given to ~~the~~ M.V.Z. is one mounted condor, "MCZ 171768" on bottom of stand, in a standing position — a fairly good mount.

April 13, 1947 Bitterwater, S.Benito Co.

I talked with Dave Selleck, game manager

Gymnogyps californianus

April ~~7~~ 13, 1947 Bitterwater, Calif.

for Fish & Game, & apparently an accurate observer. He said that *he* *saw* (at close range, flying) 2 condors at Pinnacles (the) about 1940, & ~~that~~ a pair nested in the "Santa Lucia". The nesting he thought Don McLean would know most of; Selleck did not see the Santa Lucia birds. O.R. Shaw, supervising trapper, also said he saw 2 at the Pinnacles about 1940, & 2 others ~~at~~ near The Indians near Jolon. Dave said some of "the boys" reported seeing condors 6-8 miles S. of Bitterwater this (?) year. Mr. Selleck Sr., raised near Bitterwater where his father settled, said that about 50 years ago he occasionally saw a few in the valley – on fence posts. Sheep were common here before his father came (about 1870). 1877 was a very dry year – much stock died. Cattle were plentiful later. Now these areas have grain & cattle. Shaw seemed a little too talkative, & sure, & his observation might be doubted. Selleck had done some work on the effects of the poison "1080" on quail. The normal grain was poisoned 1 oz. per 100 lbs. It required about .2 mgm./km. to kill dogs, 2 for squirrels (5 or 6 kernels grain). ~~to~~ Quail were killed by it if eaten

Gymnogyps californianus

April ~~17~~ 13, ~~1946~~ 1947 Bitterwater, Calif.

in large doses only. There is a Fish & Wildlife Bulletin on "1080" Selleck said.

May 28, 1947 Berkeley, Calif.

Mr. H. L. Willman of Gualala dropped in at M.V.Z. to tell me of some condor experiences. He ~~is~~ was an active man about 50 yrs. old. He was raised on a ranch near the foot of Willman Canyon in the lower Sisquoc country & was well acquainted with that region. He said that he used to see condors often in the Manzana & near Bald Mtn. there (40± yrs. ago). He said a pair nested near the river on Wheat Peak for several years. A group of mormons lived in that area then. He said eggs were taken & sold for $25-$50. These eggs came from the lower Sisquoc, not Falls Canyon. Once about 1920 he saw 38 condors near Sisquoc Falls, he said. Grinnell, he said, had several pictures of Sisquoc Falls copied from some of Willman's. Willman said the condors apparently fed largely on lion kills. Stockmen in that area argued about whether they killed stock or not - some claimed the birds struck animals with their wings, knocking them over cliffs, & then fed on them. Some also claimed the condors had a mating whistle similar to the

Gymnogyps californianus

May ~~27~~ 28, 1947 Berkeley, Calif.

"kyork" of a mountain quail. Willmann said condors sometimes flew back & forth in small canyons as if having difficulty in getting out. Some must have had a wingspread of 20 ft, he said. Once he saw a ~~go~~ bald eagle on the ground under a tree & a condor diving at it; the eagle left & the condor landed under the tree. ~~The~~ Willmann threw stones at the condor & drove it off. The carcass there was a coyote with a small hole in its side, & heart & lungs pulled out through the hole. In 1928, Willmann said, he saw 2 condors near the west side of San Rafael Mtn.. With his mother, about 1941, in Sept. or Oct., he was driving near Jenner when they saw 2 condors – no doubt, he said, as both he & his mothers knew condors. He also saw 2 on Mt. Diablo in April about 1938, he said. The Wheat's had a pet condor near Wheat Peak about 1902. Willmann undoubtedly knows condors & was well versed in the Sisquoc country. His observations were not too accurate, however, so I doubt his Jenner & Diablo observations. Stock was grazed in the lower Sisquoc & Santa Inez in the old days, & up into the heads of the canyons in dry years. Robert

Gymnogyps californianus

May 28, 1947 Berkeley, Calif.

Caston of Santa Maria is acquainted with Willmann.

June 15, 1947

Drove from Delano via "Rexroth Corner" to a hilltop about 10 miles E. of ~~McFarland~~ Famoso. From there I had watched condors last year. Squirrel holes showed evidence of poisoning this year—perhaps a month ago. We saw scarcely a single squirrel or turkey vulture. There was a fair N. breeze at 10:25; sky cirrus overcast (thin) & temperature 90°+. I saw 2 single turkey vultures. At 10:40 I saw 1 condor circling 100±' over the ~~McFarland~~ road ~~rd~~ 2± miles E. of "Rexroth Corner". It circled & rose, to 500±', then soared S± with occasional wing dips until about 1 mile W. of Mt. Poso. There it circled & rose with 1 turkey vulture & then apparently continued southward (10:50). By 11:15 we saw no more condors. We drove to Fountain Springs, & later to Walter Richardson's place near Porterville, - I saw condors at both of these last ~~year~~ summer - but saw no condors.

June 17, 1947 Nr. Cholame, San Luis Obispo Co.

With Ian McMillan & Mary K., drove up the Cholame-Parkfield road and at 8:30 saw 2 soaring condors. Sky clear, no breeze, warm. Ian & I watched

Gymnogyps californianus

June 17, 1947 Nr. Cholame, San Luis Obispo Co.

the 2 condors over the E. edge of Cholame Flat. One descended and dove at the other - ~~then~~ they separated & descended separately to alight about 1 mile N. of the big corral (about 4 miles N. of Cholame). We drove around to the E. side & to about 1/2 mile E. of carcass. We saw 1 condor in air, rising, & working away to the west; & 2 adults at the carcass, with 7± turkey vultures and 3± ravens. The condors stood 6±' from the carcass as vultures fed. ~~Then we~~ We drove to within 250 yds. of the carcass. One condor hopped atop the calf, & ruff down, pulled several times at the side, just anterior to leg of calf. The other adult stood quietly, ruff up. Turkey vultures hopped off of carcass, without protest, as condor mounted it. The condor left the carcass after 3± minutes, took off to N. with 3± hops & 30 flaps before gliding. It landed about 1 mile N. of carcass on slightly higher ground. The turkey vultures again mounted the carcass. The second adult then hopped on the carcass & fed as the first had, & in about 3 minutes it too took off with 30 flaps, a glide, then 6, 11, etc. flaps. It landed beside the first adult. We approached the carcass & flushed the turkey vultures. The carcass proved to be a yearling calf, lying on its side on open flat, bare ground. It had little odor & apparently had been dead about

ford

Gymnogyps californianus

June 17, 1947 Nr. Cholame, San Luis Obispo Co., Calif.

2 or 3 days. Death was apparently from recent castration. The anus was opened, there was a 2± " hole at the scrotal area, a 8" x 4" hole just anterior to thigh in side of abdomen, & a 9"x5" hole at side of rib basket. The intestines appeared mainly intact. The ribs were pecked clean where exposed. Eye was gone but lips & gums were intact. There were several turkey vulture feathers nearby. We left carcass at 9:05; the 2 adults were together as before then. We saw several Swainson hawks & 100+ ravens over Cholame Flat this day - probably feeding on grasshoppers. So, at least 3 condors seen, & feeding close to the spot where Ian & I observed feeding last year. Apparently casualties caused by calving & cutting & branding furnish carcasses at this time of year. Cholame Ranch still uses old fashioned methods, said Ian, & thus loses cattle from castration & such.

June 18, 1947 Nr. Cholame, San Luis Obispo Co., Calif.

with Ian McMillan, Mary K., & McMillan kids, drove to Cholame Flat to view the site where 2 condors were seen at a carcass yesterday. Clear, warm, no breeze. At 9:15, when about 1½ miles SE of carcass, we saw 5 condors walking up a grassy slope just W. of the (Hancock Ranch) road. These were joined by a sixth, 100 yds. or so behind. All ascended the 10±% slope

June 18. [illegible]

[illegible] 2 mm), [illegible]

[illegible]

Gymnogyps californianus

June 18, 1947 Nr. Cholame, Calif.

for 50 to 100 yards until at its crest, then took off down-hill. Our presence may have disturbed them. Two of the 6 were immatures. They took off one at a time, circled, & rose together. 15± ravens milled with them & a seventh condor joined the group. The 2 imm. circled below the others. One adult soared 1± mile E. & circled; the other 6 worked toward the carcass area. Meanwhile, condors were occasionally landing or taking off at the carcass, & at least 10 were counted on the ground at the carcass or scattered among the cattle for about 1/4 mile SW of carcass (possibly drinking in the cow-tracked water). At 9:40, I counted at least 11 in air - so at least 18 total seen at once. There were 20± turkey vultures also in the vicinity including ~~on~~ at the carcass. Air still calm. Of the 7 in air, several had primaries missing (none #9 or 10 seen). One imm. had center 2± rectrices out, an outer secondary, & some primaries too. One imm. showed a bulge in crop area. At 9:50, 6 circled about 1 mile E. of carcass at 500±; rising. Sam & I counted 22 then, individually, 16 being on ground, 4 at the carcass. Condors walked among the cattle, stood quietly 100± yds. from the calf, or occasionally landed near the carcass or took off. At 10:10 we drove slowly to about 250 yds. E. of carcass and counted 17 on the ground.

Gymnogyps californianus

June 18, 1947 Nr. Cholame, Calif.

after 2± minutes, they began to fly, a few at a time, until all but 3 immatures were in air. These 3 clustered about 100 yds. S. of calf & seemed to be feeding at part of it. Ian said he saw 1 of these with a piece of gut. Most that left flapped heavily northward for 1/2 ± mile, then landed at various scattered spots in the closely cropped grass. We drove to about 150 yds. W. of carcass. A lone, dark sooty immature (2nd. year?; good plumage) remained until after we stopped, then flapped away to W. with 28, 11, etc. flaps. Feet were seen to be together as this imm. & some previous adults took off. We visited the spot where the 3 immatures were but found only tracks, no meat. The calf carcass we found over half consumed. The upper side was opened from thigh to neck & the upper foreleg pulled inside-out through the hide. The backbone (& neural spines) and ribs were cleaned of meat; all organs were gone though intestinal contents partially filled the cavity. Tail & ears were intact. There had been some nibbling at upper ear & at gums. The carcass had apparently not been moved. Later we saw one coyote - it may have helped clean the carcass. Ribs were unbroken though several were pulled free from sternum. We left then - several condors scattered in air, & several on ground 1/2 mile or more from carcass.

Gymnogyps californianus

July 12, 1947 Nr. Cholame, Calif.

At 3:50 p.m., from the Parkfield road, on Cholame Flats, I saw 2 condors over Gold Hill. There were 1000± head of cattle on the flats & nearby hills then. Drove then to the Gold Hill area & at 4:15 inspected a bull carcass toward which one of the condors had seemed to descend. There were about 4 turkey vultures at this carcass which lay about 100 yds. N. of the road, near Gold Hill, on open ground, on a 15± % slope. The bull had apparently died from castration about 3 days ago. Penis was pulled out, anus was open, & eyes were gone - otherwise the hide was unbroken. We found some condor down & tracks near the carcass. Some tracks seemed to be of a running bird or the front claws & ends of toes were dug in. We saw a Swainson's hawk nearby. We saw no more condors so left. Sky clear, breeze light. Ian McMillan told me that some local men reported seeing 4 condors over Shandon recently, from an airplane. He also said that he had looked for 2 mornings at Cholame Flat & also at Shale Hills for condors, not long ago, but had seen none. Laidlaw Williams & Mr. & Mrs. Charles Sibley were with us.

Gymnogyps californianus

July 13, 1947 Nr. Cholame, Calif.

Just south of Gold Hill on Hancock Ranch at 8:35 a.m. we saw no condors but an occasional turkey vulture. No ravens or turkey vultures seemed to notice the bull carcass. At 9 a.m. I saw 2 condors soaring about 1 mile east of us. They circled over a brown hill, & rose, then at 9:03 headed straight toward us (& bull carcass). There was a fair W. breeze. One, dark headed imm., had inner right ~~seda~~ secondary & an outer left secondary missing; the other, an in-between, also had inner ~~left~~ right secondary out and had ragged left secondary tips. At 9:06 they again circled, ½ mile east of the bull carcass. 2 turkey vultures circled near them. The dark imm. soared 15±' above the older bird, & vulture above. 9:10, the 2 glided ½± mile S. The older flapped 10± times & overtook the other which dodged. 9:13, a third (also dark head) appeared over the far hill where first seen. It soared straight to below the two, circled up & joined them. These did not rise in altitude. At 9:16 all dropped below the horizon. Ian McMillan saw them go down on a ploughed ridge about 1½ miles from us, so we drove that way. At 9:55 Ike came upon the 3 condors with several ravens atop a ploughed ridge, far from cover, about

Gymnogyps californianus

July 13, 1947 Nr. Cholame, Calif.

1/2 mile ~~east~~ south of the Hughes' ranch house. There were no cattle grazing in this area. Ike retired; we reconnoitered, & then the 5 of us approached slowly. We saw 3 ravens leave the area about 10:10. At 10:13 we came up a rise & saw 2 dark headed imm. & 1 in-between (about 2 & 3-4 yrs. old, estimated) standing facing N (downhill) on the 5± % slope. Eldest had orange area below rictus, sooty head, & pink crop bulge. They stood — & we stood & observed from about 150 yds. Sibley shot some pictures, then moved closer, & at 10:16 the eldest, then dark heads, took off to N. The 3 circled with 3± turkey vultures (1 left carcass ~~with~~ with condors). They circled in a draw for 2± minutes, then soared N over a ridge. They circled & rose until about 300' over us at 10:22. A *Buteo* was near the group. They soared higher until lost. The carcass was a clean white calf born about 1 month prematurely, & was about 36" total length. Fur was short, smooth, & silky. 3 hoofs had had bottoms nibbled away. Both ears were gone. The hide was opened & ~~so~~ inside exposed from the base of neck to front of ~~hoo~~ horns on the upper side (only). ~~Eye~~ Upper eye was gone. Base of tail ~~nibbl~~ bared to the bone. About half ~~ne~~ meat

Gymnogyps californianus

July 13, 1947 Nr. Cholame, Calif.

cleaned from the ribs but no ribs broken. Meat cleaned from neural spines. about 1/4 meat gone from upper shoulder & ham. All viscera gone. Rib cage still intact. No legs yet turned inside out. Neck & head skin unbroken. A hole at anus & a few smaller "bites" nearby. This was fresh but relaxed meat - no bad smell. Probably dead about a day. Apparently the carcass had ~~beend~~ been dragged about 30' so far by the birds. Perhaps they had found it yesterday when descending in this direction. Meat enough left for another meal - only about 1/3 total consumed. Inguinal region & area posterior to penis with skin not broken. We left the carcass at 10:31. It apparently lay about 1/4 mile or so ~~into M~~ from the Monterey - S.L.O. Co. line. Fair S. breeze. Sibley had shot 17 pictures & may have got something. Feet down in 2 when they were 300+ feet in air. One imm. had a short rectrix left of center. Oldest had featherless ring just above ruff. Sky clear; day warm. We left.

December 27, 1947 Gorman, Calif.

At 12:20 p.m., when stopped at Gorman for lunch, Allan Watson & I saw one adult at the head of the canyon behind the Gorman restaurant (about

Gymnogyps californianus

December 27, 1947 # Gorman, Calif.

1/2 mile east of ~~the~~ highway 99). It soared S. about 1 mile & joined another condor 1/4 ± mile west of the highway. The two circled for 3 ± minutes, then bore E. across (1000 ± ' above) 99 again. One disappeared to E. behind a hill, the other return-ed to the circling spot (12:25). Two turkey vultures had circled beneath them. Day very clear with a fair breeze from S or SW. Occas-ionally the condors flapped. Temp. about 65°F. This is the first time I have seen condors from the Ridge Route. San Joaquin Valley was fog filled yesterday & today. At about 4 p.m. we arrived at Hopper Ranch & visited with Gene & Ruth Percy. They said that they occasionally saw 1 or 2 condors over the ranch, that the children had seen a bunch of feathers in lower Wasley Canyon earlier this year as if a condor had died there. Percy's had lost about 3 cattle within the last month in the canyons east of the house, & that Gene had seen a couple of condors in the trees near that area one day (possibly fed on the carcass). This ~~was~~ has ~~a~~ been a dry year so far - no green grass high enough for cattle feed yet. ~~They~~ Percy's had cut some their cattle herd drastically to save feed, and even trucked in hay for the cattle. Percy's

o Ford

Gymnogyps californianus

December 27, 1947 Hopper Ranch, Ventura Co., Calif.

believed there would be many cattle deaths this winter because of food & water shortage.

December 28, 1947 Nr. Hopper Mtn, Ventura Co., Calif.

Allan Watson & I hunted quail on Hopper Ranch & in Wasby Canyon. At 8:30 a.m., sky cirrus overcast, calm. Same at 10 a.m. when we first reached Wasby Canyon. A road from Percy's ~~goes~~ goes into Wasby Canyon to the site of the old oil well. We saw 3 deer & a golden eagle. At 10:54, saw one adult (?) circling over S. Ridge, & at 10:56 another. Both disappeared N. of this ridge. At 1 p.m. we arrived at Pyramid Lookout on foot. A survey revealed 7 condors:- ~~and~~ an adult & immature perched in separate dead trees at

4 ad. 2 imm. Near Roost Trees, 2 imm. and 1 adult on Saddle Ps., & 2 adults (perhaps 3) circling over Arundell Ridge. All perched ones were gone by 1:35. 1:40, I noticed one atop the nearest conifer at ~~tot~~ SW of Parking Place - it took off to S., circled & rose over Parking Knoll. 1:45 I saw 5 just above horizon, possibly just entering the Hopper Basin area. 1:55, I sat atop the lookout - only one perched visible - on next to highest Near Roost Tree. 2:06, 2 adults soared S. about 400' overhead & joined 6 others near head of canyon just SW of Parking Place. All 8 circled about 400' over me, the hissing of their wings being plainly audible (one perched still). Of the 9,

Gymnogyps californianus

December 28, 1947 Hopper Canyon, Ventura Co.

one was a dark headed imm., one a near-adult (dark in center of wing patches), & 7 adults. One adult briefly chased another, the hum of their speed sounding like a diving plane. Air calm, sky 7/10 cirrus & cirro-stratus. 2:14, 10 were in air about 1/4 mile W. of Lookout, & 11th still perched. Fair SW breeze - no direct sunshine now. 2:25, 2 adults & 1 imm. perched in Near Roost Tree. The one in next tree downhill (100± yds.) was on tip top, wings half spread. This one took off & with 12 flaps went (slightly down in level) to lowest branch of Near Roost Tree. After 2± minutes it began working up the tree, springing from branch to branch for about 8 "steps" until at level of next to highest bird (lowest an imm. now). To climb up, adult stood with head pointed up toward higher branch & moved head about as if looking over the situation, wings half spread & somewhat down & back. Then it gave a quick crouch & spring & flaps (wings only half out), landed with feet widespread on next branch, & sometimes put bill to branch as if for balance. Then got ready for the next step. Wings were not folded between "steps". At 2:30, only imm. & 1 adult in this tree, then another adult perched between their levels. Some of the soarers had bulging "crops". The imm. in Near Roost Tree seemed about a 3-year old. There were (2:40) 2 adults perched in Saddle Ps., & adult &

oford

3325

Gymnogyps californianus

December 28, 1947 Hopper Canyon, Ventura Co.

imm. atop a green Ps. on Arundell Ridge. Relatively inactive period. Light breeze from W. 2:49, the imm. had moved downhill 1 tree from Near Roost Tree, the 2 adults remaining as before. The two gone from Saddle Ps., adult & imm. as before, & 1 adult was atop Flat Ps. but left. Apparently no water at Big Cave or Condor Falls, & no condors yet seen to perch or roost there. Use of Big Cave as a roost may not commence until there is water there. 2:55, three condors soared by 300± yds. to W. going S., then N. to W. of Flat Hump, then circled ~~& rose~~ worked N. at that level. One adult atop Parking Roost Tree - thus 10 condors of the 11 accounted for (2 sure imm.). 3:05, now only one on Near Roost Tree, none visible on Arundell Ridge. 3:15; 2 adults in Near Roost Tree, 1 imm. in first tree below (atop), 1 adult in dead Ps. below Big Mdw., 1 imm. on a whitened branch of dead Ps. below Rock Ridge (1/4± mile from adult). The 3 fliers had worked back near us, still just W. of & below the rim. One was atop a rock knoll 60±' back from edge of N. ~~Aro~~ Arundell (gone 3:20) Ridge" On in Parking Ps. Direct sunshine now, light W. breeze. 3:40, the 6 ~~at~~ as before, & 2 adults on Saddle Ps., one lying flat. 3:51, the 5 in the Big Mdw. area as before, & in Saddle Ps. Two now in Roost Tree at Big Cave. None on Parking Ps. Fair W. breeze - sunshine still but cool (perhaps 60°F.). 4:03, the one furthest down canyon

Gymnogyps californianus

December 28, 1947 Hopper Canyon, Ventura Co.

below Big Mdw. was gone, & an adult in a tree near the other adult there. The 2 adults & 1 imm. in Near Roost Trees as before, & those in Roost Tree & Saddle Ps. as before. One adult on Saddle Ps. had descended 10±' & was crouched flat. 4:24, 3 at Near Roost Trees as before. Dark alto-cumulus clouds covered sun. One adult from below Big. mdw. changed to dead Ps. 1/4± mile further down canyon. None visible on Arundell Ridge or Roost Tree but one in pothole at Whitewash Ledge. Becoming quite cold. We left for Hopper Ranch at 4:30 (E. air W. breeze). In South Canyon I saw 3 condors (at least 2 adults) perched in 2 dead Ps. well below the level of South Ridge. At Hopper Ranch, Gene Percy said he had seen 2 condors over the ridge N. of the house this morning. He said that even in summer 1 or 2 were seen almost every day. Perhaps any well located carcasses do not escape detection for long ~~in~~ on ~~this~~ this road.

December 29, 1947 Hopper Ranch, Ventura Co.

About 9 a.m. the Percy children told me that they saw 2 condors perched in a sycamore about 3/4 mile SE of the house near the "sulphur water" while doing chores this morning. I hiked down the road and at 9:20 was opposite the 2 adults perched in top of a bare-topped sycamore about 250 yds. E. of the

Gymnogyps californianus

December 29, 1947 Hopper Ranch, Ventura Co.

road. The tree was 10±' higher than surrounding ones. They took off within 3 minutes - probably disturbed by our presence (we were indeed uphill from them too) - and soared down the canyon to E. Cool NW breeze, sky 3/10 cumulus. Later investigation revealed that these birds were about 50 yds. from an overflowing water trough. I found no feathers or tracks near the water. They were about 150 yds. from a cow carcass. The carcass smelled and was several days old. Eyes were gone, nose + lips seemed to have been chewed, one ear was half nibbled off, + there was a 18±" diameter opening above the ribs, + most of the upper ribs bore only shreds of meat. I saw no feathers or other evidence that condors had eaten on the carcass. Probably these condors roosted there last night. With Allan Watson I hiked up the canyon W. of the ranch house. At 10:25 I saw 1 adult flex-gliding over the slopes at head of this canyon. At 10:45 we crossed the ridge into Wasley Canyon + saw one sunning, wings outspread, facing S±, perched on a limb of the dead Ps. highest on South Ridge. There were low cumulus clouds over the Gorman area + the radio had reported a light snow there. Fair cool NW breeze. About 11:10 I saw 2 working over the slopes of upper Wasley

Gymnogyps californianus

December 29, 1947 Hopper Canyon, Ventura Co.

Canyon, ~~skm~~ at 500±' altitude. At 11:45, one was circling over ~~Wooly Canyon~~ South Ridge & another about 1 mile south over the ridge; both adults. About 12:00 I saw an adult & a dark imm. soaring over head of Wooly. We had made quite a ~~rocket~~ racket shooting quail in the canyon. I hiked toward top of Hopper Mtn. & at about 12:15 saw 2 adults in 1 dead Ps. & a dark imm. in another (adjacent) in highest dead Ps. on South Ridge. At about 12:40, still there. ~~3 to~~ 3 ravens were in same trees, sometimes above, below, or ~~at~~ on same branch as condors without notable reaction. Two soared over Arundell Ridge, high, at same time. About 2 p.m. I again saw 2 over the slopes to N. of the ranch house, & ~~again~~ one there about 3:30 when we returned to the ranch house. Still cool (perhaps 45°F.) with fair E. breeze. Mrs. Percy thought the condors unusually frequent over the ranch canyon the past few days (because of good E. winds?).

February 18, 1948 Hopper Ranch, Ventura Co.

Talked with Gene Percy at Hopper Mountain Ranch. He said he had seen occasional condors since my last visit but none perched in trees on the ranch. There had been a storm bringing about 2" of snow and sleet and rain about February 5, and cold, (sub-freezing) weather for several

Gymnogyps californianus

February 19, 1948 Hopper Ranch, Ventura Co.

days about that time. The drought this year was the worst since 1877 (check year) according to Fillmorites. Percy said his grandfather had 10,000 sheep in S. Ventura Co. in 18–(?), a drought year, and only 300 by the end of the year (much condor food then). Two horses had died on the ranch just before the storm. They were cut open & autopsied & pushed over a bluff about 1 mile E. of the ranchhouse. I examined one carcass – exposed & ~~seen~~ accessible to condors – but found no condor sign. Percy had seen condors circling that area one day and believed the birds had found the carcasses. Many ravens had fed at carcasses. Percy had been at this ranch since 1930.

I drove to the top of ridge between the ranch house & Wasily Canyon, arriving 8:45 a.m. Sky 8/10 cirro-stratus; calm, warm. 9:05, Fair E. breeze; 2 adults circling & rising ~~just~~ over E. slope of South Ridge. One soared up Hopper Canyon, the other worked W. over Flat Hump. Outside edge of tail tilted down & held thus before turn. Inner side primaries sometimes dipped down at start of turn. On one turn, both wings flattened (in dihedral) at start. In general, altitude lost & speed gained in turning. I hiked

Gymnogyps californianus

February 18, 1948 Hopper Canyon, Ventura Co.

up trail toward Hopper Rim. 9:15, I saw one adult perched on branch of dead Ps. near crest of Flat Hump, an immature in similar spot 200± yds. down slope to N., + another adult 100± yds. further down slope. All stood quietly, upper 2 facing E., lower W. Faint breeze. All 3 on steep slope - perhaps the 2 flying adults perched. Small patches of snow in protected spots ~~on trail~~ in brush. Passed 3/4± mile W. of perched birds. Air calm. 9:30, reached Pole Canyon road. Only the imm. still perched, it appeared. Light SE breeze. 9:45, one visible in Saddle Ps. 10:00, arrived at Pyramid LO; faint SE breeze. Saw 1 perched just W. of Rock Ridge in dead Ps. (immature). 10:15, adult with 2 right secondaries and #4 right primary out soared toward LO from over Parking Knoll; 2 others soaring over South Canyon. Soaring slow and smooth but apparently easy as if soarability of air good. Near adult dropped legs briefly as it passed E. of LO (100±' over Rim). It joined another over Spring Canyon Mdw. 10:20, an imm. passed 50±' over LO heading N. too. First adult now over Old Cabin where it had risen in company with a circling red-tailed hawk. 10:24, this (?) one, still with hawk, circling at extreme head of Hopper Canyon (white paint area). 10:25, the (?) imm. ~~imm.~~ circling low at N. Pt. Still one perched at

Gymnogyps californianus

February 18, 1948 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

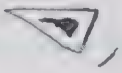
Rock Ridge. 10:30, one (imm.? same?) now on tip top of Flat Ps. Water visible at Condor Falls. Moderate whitewash at Big Cave – not evidence of concentrated roosting there. Sky 9/10 cirro-stratus – faint to light SE breeze. Estimated 60°F. 10:38, 2 circling over E. slope ~~on~~ of top of Hopper Mtn. Five condors minimum present. Two adults atop Flat Ps., backs to sun. 10:40, 2 circling high over Spring Canyon Mdw; a red-tailed hawk circling above them; both adults. One soared S. about 1/4 mile E. of lookout, crop bulging (how come if indicated feeding?) Tilted right side of tail down, pointed bill 45° to left, then turned left. Descended E. over Rock Ridge – gave a dip; feet down; wings up though descending. 10:45, turned back W., gave 2 dips, & swooped up to land on branch of dead Ps. near Rock Ridge, 100±' from perched imm. and 20±' above. 10:47, imm. there extended wings 1/2 way as if begging. 10:48, the imm. hopped to a 6±' higher branch facing adult. 10:50, imm. off to S. and turned a large circle, taking 21 flaps in first half, then swooped to top of dead Ps. 30±' from & 15±' above adult. 10:51, imm. off to 1/4± mile S., then circled & rose. Another imm. & adult circling & rising over Spring Canyon Mdw., and 2 others joined these at 10:57. 1 adult (other) landed atop Flat Ps. Imm. from Rock Ridge above horizon; adult perched as before.

ford

Gymnogyps californianus

February 18, 1948 Hopper Canyon, Ventura Co.

Seven condors, 3 or + imm., present (minimum).

11:00, 3 circling over Rim at head of Hopper Canyon, 3 others over Parking knoll (1 chased another several times), + 2 separate perched adults still - so a minimum of 8 condors. Breeze light, sky overcast. 11:13, 2 imm., under wing patches , circled slowly 500±' above Rim near LO. No apparent feather gaps - very perfect plumage - and both soared well (over 1 yr. old). A single turkey ~~vulture~~ vulture, first seen today, soared near them. The 2 followed vulture about ½ mile S. + leader dove slightly toward vulture (vulture flapped + rose). One imm. chased other briefly, both flap-gliding and twisting and losing 100±' altitude. Then the two circled and rose together over Parking knoll (11:18). 11:20, 2 perched adults as before. 11:25, the 2 imm. circled 200±' over LO. 11:35, a possible condor perched atop Whitacre Pk. Breeze fair + cool from E. - most so far today. Clouds lowering - alto-stratus + alto-cumulus. 11:40, 2 perched adults as before. Perhaps these fed late yesterday or early today. About 11:55 the 1 adult disappeared from Flat Rs. 12:00, one adult still on Rock Ridge and 1 (?) atop Whitacre Pk. I left + hiked 2 miles down road to Pete Lagun's. No gates locked or signs up yet. Hiked back to Hopper Ranch trail and started down at 1:30. The road, incidentally, show-

Gymnogyps californianus

February 18, 1948 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

ed car tracks made since the last storm (who?). I saw an adult + 1 yr. imm. (under wing patches , light tips to greater secondary coverts, tail with a point) soar N. over head of Wasiley Canyon. Crops of both bulged, that of imm. being a button ⌣ as if skin tighter. Imm, then adult, lit in tops of highest dead *Ps.* on Flat Hump of South Ridge. Imm. begged, facing adult, giving gentle "feeding flaps". Both shifted perches so that at about 1:50, chick faced adult's left side. There was much begging but heads mostly obscured by tree trunk. Flaps increased at times, apparently when feeding contact broken, then decreased to none or nearly no flaps though wings always extended. I saw adult's head pump up + down + twice saw adult head forced high by chick's bill. So without doubt a *feeding* of a *1947 chick*. By 2:00, both quietly standing on same limb. Chick scratched side of head with foot. I was on open hillside 1/4± mile away at same level. 2:10, adult gone. 2:15, it (same?) was atop dead *Ps.* 100± yds. from imm. 2:20, one from that area flew glided fast to SE for about 1½ miles (over Wasiley Canyon), joined another, and both circled together, working up canyon. Sky 9/10 alto-stratus; cool fair S. breeze. (At 2:30 I

Gymnogyps californianus

February 18, 1948 Hopper Canyon, Ventura Co.

saw imm. (?-same?) still on before.). At 2:30 I reached car. I saw then 3 condors circling together over the head of Modelo Canyon about 3 miles east of Hopper ranch house. These worked slowly toward Baldy as if the birds were returning from Tapo Ridge or some such area toward Hopper Canyon; on their way "home". Saw at least 15 diff today.

April ~~22~~ 23, 1948 Eb McMillan Ranch, San Luis Obispo Co.

I questioned Eb McMillan about sheep distribution. He said the sheep in the foothills near Coalinga now were probably on Carrizo Plain S. of Soda Lake in winter (Eb's great great (?) uncle had raised sheep on Carrizo Plain about 1850 (?)) By December of a normal year, Eb said, the sheep were around Blackwell's Corner for shearing & lambing. Carl Twisselman's sheep were generally near Temblor Ranch & Santa Maria Pass in winter, Eb said. These facts seem to indicate favorable condor food (sheep) conditions near Carrizo Plains in winter - but few condors. Eb thought ~~that~~ Carl Twisselman had a record of 5 condors for February of this year. From many occurrences, and lack of them, Eb believes the condor flight line from McChesney Mtn. is straight out nearly over Hubbard Hill to the Temblor Range, thence NW up Bitterwater Valley. Condors seen from Eb's Ranch & home (near Palo Prieta Pass) many times, but very rarely over the San Juan River west of Red Hills or

Koford

3335

Gymnogyps californianus

April ~~22~~ 23, 1948. Eb McMillan Ranch, NE San Luis Obispo Co. near Shandon. On several occasions Eb has seen condors in Sand Creek area (W. of Poso Ortega). One year he saw a single condor feeding in that area several times; ~~It~~ This bird seemed to fly straight toward McChesney Mtn. when it left. (Eb thought it might be nesting there). In 1933, Eb saw one roosting in a dead tree just into Montenay Canyon from Beartrap - possibly nesting? This year, Eb had seen 1 or 2 condors ~~near~~ on the ranch already - (see letter information file). We visited the carcass of a calf about ½ mile W. of ranch house about 5 p.m. A golden eagle was feeding there, but there was no sign of a condor visit.

April 24, 1948 N. Carrizo Plain, San Luis Obispo Co. About 10:30 visited Buckhorn Ranch area - fair weather - and searched for condors but saw only turkey vultures (few of these). Went to a calf rodeo & barbecue at Wreden Ranch & talked with many cattlemen & old timers. One of the Rector brothers (75± yrs. old) was raised on the Santa Margarita Ranch. He said condors were there when he was a boy. In 1929, he said, 29 condors moved onto Carrizo Plain & he saw them from the San Juan south. Rector's observations on other birds were poor, so condor dope probably of little value. Bob & Walt Lewis - of Lewis Ranch near Simmler - said they saw a few occasionally. Ray Green of San Juan Ranch said he had seen none for 3 or 4 years. Mr. Jardin of La Panza Ranch had no recent records or

Rector knew of Wilcox of Arroyo Grande, & said he used to get condors on the ridge (pointing to top McChesney mtn.) ↓

Time- Daylight saving

Gymnogyps californianus

April 24, 1948 Nr. Simmler, San Luis Obispo Co.

information. The cattlemen in general knew of condors & were mildly interested in them, but apparently they paid little attention to birds. I looked about for condors occasionally until about 2 p.m., but saw none. In the late afternoon visited Painted Rock. Saw no stock to speak of. Eb said that cultivation in Carrizo Plains has increased tremendously since about 1940 - (get figures to check this, if possible).

April 25, 1948 Beartrap Canyon, San Luis Obispo Co.

With Eb & Ian McMillan and families, drove into lower Beartrap Canyon. Donald McMillan & I hiked to a hill from where we could watch the top of McChesney Mtn, Beartrap Canyon, & part of Martinez Canyon. At 8 a.m. we saw turkey vultures perched quietly. About 8:45, I was watching for condors with telescope & binocs. Clear, calm, warm day. We saw no condors by about 11 a.m., so Don & I descended to canyon & joined the others higher up the Beartrap Canyon. None saw any condors tho we saw golden eagles above McChesney Mtn. Apparently no condors roosting here now. We left about 3 p.m. & returned to Eb's ranch. Some ~~stock~~ cattle and fair feed conditions on La Panza Ranch near the condor roost areas. Eb told me ~~that~~ about ~~3 or~~ 2 or 3 years ago a man at a ranch on ~~Car~~ Carrizo Plains (W. side near Wells place) told him he had run over two condors with

Gymnogyps californianus

April 23, 1948 Nr. Cholame, San Luis Obispo Co.

a plow. The birds, the man said, had been shot by a sheepherder. Eb asked the man to get every part he could find, but later the man ~~so~~ told Eb he couldn't find the parts. Eb believes this man shot the condors but became fearful when told the birds were protected, so did not attempt to recover the remains.

May 7, 1948 Pacific Grove, Monterey Co.

At the annual meeting of the Cooper Club, I talked with Rollo Beck. He said that he did not remember ever having shot a condor but that he had bought them for $5 and sold them for $25. All had come from Big Sur or Jolon. Near Big Sur some condors were collected by a man named Hopkins, Beck believed. Beck thought 2 of his condors went to Girtanner (sp.?) in Switzerland, and 1 to Dwight. Beck said he saw condors at Big Sur & south and Jolon and south, about 1900 or earlier. He ~~thog~~ thought he saw 20 or 30 at Jolon including one young one in a low tree that he approached so closely he could have lassoed it. Beck does not remember these things too clearly but has some notes that he said he would send me. At second hand I heard that Otto Zahn had been up the Sisquoc in 1896 and had seen condors there.

Clark Streator said that from 1883 to '87 he lived

Gymnogyps californianus

May 7, 1948 Pacific Grove, Monterey Co.

at Santa Barbara. Colonel Hollister had a sea ranch at or near Cooper Ranch near Goleta, & a condor was seen (by Streator?) at a carcass, supposedly gorged so that it could not fly. Streator said he mounted a male weighing 20 lbs., wingspread 9'1", while at Santa Barbara, & that the bird went to CP Rowe the author (?). Streator's mind is not good & he is very talkative, but in general he seems accurate in what he remembers. He said he had published an article once in the Oologist (?) stating that condors were rare (1886 ± ?). I saw 400' of 16 mm. moving pictures that Ed Harrison had taken in April 1946 (13+14th?) from a blind atop the cliffs at Big Cave. These showed an adult bathing and carrying a feather out of the pool in its bill. Immatures bathing and playing. Dark headed immatures playing with orange headed ones. About 15 condors on Whitewash Ledge & top of the cliff. Walking; flight; takeoff; soaring from below and above. A very brief shot — about 1 second — of mating display. Feather deficiencies in several birds are shown. The back view of an adult sunning atop Roost Tree. Most of the pictures are clear. Ed has some Kodachrome stills to go with them. These were taken with lenses up to 20" in focal length.

oford

3339

Gymnogyps californianus

August 13, 1948 Salinas Valley, Calif.
Driving between King City and Paso Robles, I saw no cattle or other stock but much wheat. No condor food. ~~At Eb McMillans~~

August 13, 1948 Nr. Cholame, San Luis Obispo Co.
Talked with Eb McMillan at his home. He said that yesterday he saw 2 condors near the Pinole Ranch, and that condors had been seen there several times lately. Eb had lost 4 cattle from anthrax recently and the condors & turkey vultures fed on these. The condors seemed to show no fear of the ranch buildings or cars on the road, but flew quickly if a car came off the road toward them. Eb saw one go thru the dust of a passing car in landing. This season he had ~~seen~~ seen only one condor which was surely a dark headed immature. One time he drove up on 12 or 15 in a ditch at a carcass. The birds seemed to come from the direction of McChesney Mtn. and disappear in the same direction. They usually arrived about 11 a.m. or noon. (A hired man at his ranch said that he saw one bunch at 11 a.m. recently). Sam McMillan said he thought there were few or no cattle at Cholame Flat. The animals were mostly shipped to Oregon

Gymnogyps californianus

August 14, 1948 Nr. Cholame, San Luis Obispo Co.

before branding time. Ad Grant had sold his sheep, Ike said, & he used to furnish much condor food. Eb said the eagles didn't bother the condors at the cattle carcasses near (1/4 mile) the ranch house but did at the sheep carcasses (near Paso Ortega).

August 15, 1948 Pinole Land & Cattle Co., S.L.O. Co.

Visited ranch run by Eb McMillan at N. end of Carrizo Plains. There was a large cow carcass atop a knoll of plowed ground about 1/4 mile N.E. of the ranch buildings. It smelled very foul & was running juice from both ends. There were many turkey vulture tracks & feathers about but the carcass had scarcely been ~~to~~ touched. At 11:00 a.m. there were about 15 turkey vultures over the carcass. Day clear & warm. ~~We went~~ From the carcass one could look directly into Beartrap Canyon & the condor roosting areas there. We visited Eb working in the fields. He said that the condors had come down near the house to feed on offal from steer slaughtering not long ago. They were flushed by two people on foot at close range but returned to the feast a few minutes after the people left (Mrs. McMillan & son). Eb thought it very unusual that the birds re-

Gymnogyps californianus

August 14, 1948 Carrizo Plains, S.L.O. Co.

turned to the food. On another day he put out some jackrabbits and the condors fed on these, dragging them about. In eating the offal evidently nothing was left, said Eb. He saw condor tracks indicating that one condor had dragged a steer head weighing over 20 lbs. Another time he saw about 5 condors at a sheep carcass near the road a few miles W. of the ranch house but did not have time to watch them. The rancher told him later that the condors were around all day. One rancher said that feeding condors were not disturbed by a nearly running tractor. Eb had noted the same thing in Sandhill Cranes. We revisited the carcass about 2:15 p.m. and flushed about 15 turkey vultures from the carcass, but no condors. Saw about 500 head of cattle on a ranch just SE of the Pinole, in open rolling hill country suitable for condor feeding. We drove back toward Cholame & saw about 1000 head of cattle in two bunches in Bitterwater Canyon. Eb & Ike said the weather had been windy for several days before today. Perhaps today the condors took a different route because of the change (easterly wind today; NW before). One group of condors flushed by Eb flapped ~~[illegible]~~ heavily & made for some nearby hills.

Gymnogyps californianus

August 14, 1948 Nr. Cholame, S. L. O. Co.

There they found ascending currents & rose. Eb told me that the furthest west he had seen a condor in the Shandon area was about 3 miles w. of Shandon. ~~over~~ ~~as~~ We revisited the cow carcass about 2:15 and flushed about 15 turkey vultures from it. Then we drove about 7 miles toward Simmler, stopping to search for condors, but saw none, so drove down the Bitterwater to Eb's house. Saw about 1000 head of cattle, mainly in bunches near buildings, along this route. At about 5 p.m. we drove up the Parkfield road and viewed Cholame Flat. There were perhaps 200 head of cattle there. ~~&~~ I saw one milling flock of about 50 turkey vultures. In the evening, at Shandon, Kenneth Twisselman told me that his uncle had 2 bunches of sheep in Carrizo Plains near Soda Lake. Eb knew of other bunches, one near Painted Rock, & supposed that there might be 6000 sheep on the plains now. Perhaps this is where the condors are feeding ~~in~~ mainly — Carrizo Plains, on sheep, & roosting at Mc Chesney Mtn. Eb said they burnt the carcasses of the anthrax-killed cattle.

August 15, 1948 Cholame Ranch, San Luis Obispo Co.

At 9:20 I turned off the Cottonwood Pass road onto the Cholame Flat road, and immediately started watching for condors. Day clear, warm, calm. I saw

Gymnogyps californianus

August 15, 1948 Cholame Ranch, San Luis Obispo Co.

a few turkey vultures soaring slowly & steadily, indicating low soarability of the air. I saw 50± ravens, mainly perched on the ground, & 2 Swainson hawks, circling. The hawks could easily be mistaken for condors by a novice because of the light buff area anteriorly beneath the wings. The hawk wing is more pointed than the condors (or red-tailed hawks), & ~~the [illegible] light~~ the base of the tail is light colored. By 11:40 I had sighted no condors though I kept watch on Cholame Flat & Castle Mtn. Breeze nil to fair; warm; clear.

August 16, 1948 To Cuyama Valley, S.B.Co.

Mary & I drove up Bitterwater Valley to Pinole. The cow carcass at Ole McMillan's had been burnt up, & we saw no condors there about noon. We drove thru Carrizo Plains but saw no condors nor bands of sheep (may have missed them as the plains are large). Saw 500± cattle on the plains, much wheat stubble, & much undeveloped land. We stopped at Cuyama Ranger Station and talked with Ranger Boyes & a guard (or assistant?) named Flynn. Flynn said ~~that~~ at Reyes Peak about July 1 he saw 6 condors (1 evening & next morning). In flying, they "grunted like pigs" he said. This sound was apparently the sound of flapping from the way he described it, & he said it was when the wings were flapped (record probably good - so occasional

Gymnogyps californianus

August 16, 1948 To Ojai, Ventura Co.

roosting near Reyes Peak. Bayes said ~~that~~ condors had been seen in Rancho Nuevo Canyon, & that there was whitewash on rocks there. Bayes said there were no sheep in Cuyama Valley & ~~that~~ few condors had been seen in the Big Pine area. Only McPherson Pk., Nordhoff, & Thorne Pt. Lookouts were manned - most fire search was done from planes from Santa Barbara. We called the lookouts by radio; McPherson had seen 1 or 2 this season, Nordhoff about 15 this season, & Thorne Pt. quite a few - up to 5 at once. ~~Bayes~~ Bayes said most reports had been from near Topatopa ridge or Thorne Pt. this season. Bayes was friendly & the lookouts apparently familiar with condors. We drove over Pine Mtn. to Ojai & I talked briefly with Ranger Lyda. He had been to Nordhoff Pk. recently & said the lookout ~~had~~ told him of seeing occasional condors there, & ~~that~~ the lookout knew them from buzzards. A trail crew had worked near Whiteledge Peak last winter and seen condors on several occasions. The patrolman at Hopper Canyon had found no evidence of trespass though ~~some~~ one car of oil geologists had ~~t~~ gone in & out (there to July 1). The oil leases at Bucksnort & Squaw Flat were active & there would probably be drilling there. We drove on to Fillmore & saw Sid Peyton. He had not been out

Gymnogyps californianus

August 16, 1948 To Nr. Fillmore, Ventura Co.

much lately but May 8 had seen up to 5 at once at Hopper Ran, including adults & immatures, & figured about 9 condors total there (some in Big Cave area). We drove to Hopper Canyon & visited Eugene Percy. He & son Stephen saw 3 condors a few days ago perched in 2 dead big cone spruces in head of Wasiley Canyon. Water this year is low in Hopper Creek (dry at Condor Falls?).

August 17 & 18, 1948 Hopper Ranch, Ventura Co.

In 2 days at the ranch, not going into Wasiley Canyon, we saw no condors. Weather clear & warm.

Aug. 22, 1948 Tejon Ranch, Kern Co.

At headquarters of Tejon Ranch, I saw 1 condor at 12:20 (daylight saving time). It approached from E. at about 1000' altitude & headed toward the group of turkey vultures at the trash dump 1/4 ± mile W. of the buildings. Again at 1 p.m. I saw 1 overhead (adult), & it bore off to E. (toward Cummings Mtn.?). At 2 p.m. I saw 2 adults heading NE from the same area at about 1000' altitude. I think the condors (2 or 3) were attracted by the actions of the vultures. The condors apparently did not land. Perry Sprague said he saw 43 condors at once last November not far from headquarters at a carcass. Cattle feed extremely short this year though a normal ~~amo~~ number of cattle were present. Sprague said that the ranch had

Gymnogyps californianus

August 22, 1948 Tejon Ranch, Kern Co.

297,000 acres. Of course much of this was leased to people growing potatoes & cotton or drilling for oil. Some of the wells near the ranch headquarters were producing well, & more holes were in the process of drilling. Sprague said he had seen 5 condors near the ranch house about 2 weeks ago.

Sept. 2, 1948 Berkeley, Calif.

Al Wool of San Jose called. He said he had been to Hopper Canyon Mar. 24 and again in May. Upon the first occasion he saw up to 16 condors, mainly roosting on "Arundell Ridge" in the Big Cave spruces. He looked at #12 nest hole but saw no signs of nesting. The May trip he saw only a few birds, and little activity near "Big Cave", but about 6 p.m. he saw one descend to the #12 nest hole, and there was whitewash there - probable nest. Wool intended to take another trip to this spot in October, he said. He saw no evidence of trespassing in this area. F

December 20, 1948 Cholame, Calif.

Eben McMillan said that he and (Ian McMillan) & others saw 3 condors over the San Juan River near the foot of Kelly Canyon on December 11 while quail hunting. Two of the birds appeared to be dark immatures. This was the first time that they had seen condors

Gymnogyps californianus

December 20, 1948 Cholame, Calif.

in that vicinity (San Juan River). Reviewing his notes, Eb told me that there was scarcely a day in July or August when condors could not be seen near the Pinole Ranch. The day that he drove up on a group of about 12 at an anthrax-killed, they rushed back & forth like turkeys when alarmed, then took off down hill to the east, & soared low into the canyon before rising. The Dec. 11 birds seemed to have much difficulty in flying in the east wind, losing altitude rapidly when heading westward. They finally disappeared in the direction of Mc Chesney Mtn. Eb thought that the birds had been feeding before they saw them. Today there was fog over the San Joaquin Valley & had been for about 10 days. At Eb's ranch & Bitterwater Canyon there was cold fog most of the day. Fog might affect the winter distribution of condors. At Los Banos yesterday I talked with Peter C. Hansen who had been in that area since 1887. He said that in the early days he saw a band of about 150 antelope near Firebaugh. He had never heard of tule elk or condors. He used to work for Henry Miller – there were many sheep, horses, & cattle in the western San Joaquin Valley.

December 22, 1948 Nr. Shandon, Calif.

At about 2 p.m., Ian Mc Millan & Donald Mc Millan saw two condors soaring about 2 miles south of the San Juan Ranch headquarters. They were quail hunting at the time.

Gymnogyps californianus

December 23, 1948 Arroyo Grande, Calif.

I talked with Fred Ross, game manager, who lives at Halcyon. He told me ~~that~~ he had been a trapper in the Cholame area from May 1942 to spring of 1943. He often saw condors over Carrizo Plains he said. Six was the most he saw at one time. In Still Canyon (not far from Antelope Valley near Cholame) he once came upon 4 condors on the ground feeding on a skunk he had trapped. That was in July 1942. Ross information seems to be reliable.

April 5, 1949 Ventura Co., Calif.

With John Baker, Rickel (Supervisor Los Padres N.F.), Goffrey (Asst. Sup.), Lyda (Dist. Rngr., Ojai), and Cronemiller (Asst. Regional For.), drove to Hopper Canyon via Pole Canyon road. Cronemiller said that 2 men in his office, Jay and Strathern, had seen 2 condors roosting on Breckenridge Mtn. recently. Lyda said that on March 25, near Whitacre Pk., a trail crew (including Dahlen, the condor area patrolman last year) saw 24 condors. A few hundred yards inside the forest boundary on the Pole Canyon road, there was a wire cable across the road, locked by a U.S.F.S. lock, and a sign stating that the Sespe wildlife area was closed except by permit from the Forest Supervisor.

Gymnogyps californianus

April 5, 1949. Further out the road we met a Fish & Wildlife Service trapper named Gibson. He said he had seen no condors in that area but had caught several wildcats and foxes and a few coyotes. The carcasses he threw over the bluff. He used only scent, not bait, but said he sometimes caught turkey vultures. The normal set was double, but the animal usually sprung both traps – this would probably prevent catching vultures which fed on animals in the trap. The forest service men had no knowledge of the presence of the trapper in this area. Cronemiller said he would see the man who was in charge of this work and have trappers kept out of the condor nesting area. At 1:05 p.m., we saw 1 adult over Parking Place – center rectrix missing. At 2 p.m. we saw a juvenile – pointed tail – soaring well but with much tail tilting, over North Ridge. Then we saw another adult (2:10 p.m.) in the same area. There was water in North Creek but I could see none falling over Big Cave (from a distance). The last rain, about 1/4", was about 2 weeks ago (acc. to Lyda; at Ojai).

According to the F.S. people, the area could not be closed to game wardens. We agreed that Burson and Percy, who ran cattle in the Sespe Wildlife Preserve, should have permits to enter, & that permits should not be required of persons owning land within the area (as in Little Sespe

Gymnogyps californianus

April 5, 1949 Ventura Co., Calif.

region). Baker was for excluding everyone and showing no preference. Rickel wanted to do nothing until a policy for the area was written. The F.S. people said that actually there was no way in which a man could be successfully prosecuted for entering such an area. Dahlen would supposedly go on duty as condor patrolman on April 11 after numerous paper machinations in San Francisco, Santa Barbara, and Ojai. Rickel deplored any additional closures – these always brought criticism of the F.S. by stockmen and hunters organizations. Rickel said that the men who fly the fire patrol (2× a day in fire season) say that they often see condors, especially near Topatopa ridge. Overcast, cirro stratus, but fair breeze, today. I saw no perched condors in Hopper Canyon from 12 to 2:30 p.m.

May 25, 1949 Cholame, San Luis Obispo Co.

At Cholame Flat, watched from about 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., searching for condors, but saw none. About 100 ravens, only 2 or 3 turkey vultures. At least 500 cattle grazing. Clear warm day. Evidently the condors are not at present feeding in this area. Ian McMillan with the Eric Reynolds', watched here earlier in the month but saw none. Ian ~~says~~ says that from Cuyama Valley to S. Monterey Co. there are many cattle carcasses. The cattle have been dying of lack-

ford

Gymnogyps californianus

May 25, 1949 San Luis Obispo Co.

spur poisoning. Cb McMillan, Jardin of La Panza ranch, & others corroborate this. We drove to Pinole Ranch. Cb said that twice this spring (once April 29), a condor was seen at midday in the head of Cedar Canyon (the E. of Pinole Ranch in San Joaquin drainage), & one day 2 (?) were flushed from a ~~calf~~ coyote carcass near Willow Canyon on La Panza ranch. We drove to La Panza ranch & talked with the manager, Jardin. He said that he saw 2 condors dragging a calf near ~~the~~ San Juan Creek near Beartrap Canyon about 2 months ago. He said he tried to keep track of the condors because many people were interested in them, & that his impression was that they arrived about November and remained until spring. Once in a while he saw a few, never many - usually near Beartrap Canyon. In a fair E. wind, we watched the roosting area at head of Beartrap from about 3 to 4 pm but saw no condors.

May 26, 1949 San Luis Obispo Co., Calif.

Cb yesterday said that the coyote carcass upon which condors were working was old - the hair was slipping, - but not flyblown, & that the birds had apparently ~~dragged~~ dragged the carcass but had not yet eaten it. From ~~law~~ law in Beartrap Canyon I watched from about 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Saw Turkey vultures (10) but no condors. Clear, warm, light breeze. Of course 1 or 2 condors could have ~~left~~ left, not

Gymnogyps californianus

May 26, 1949 San Luis Obispo Co., Calif.

passing over the lower canyon, without being seen - essentially no condors present; no evidence of nesting. If nesting previous year, an imm. might be seen in area. Ian McMillan says that the 5 condors which Buck Kester (of Parkfield) reported were the first ever ~~ever~~ reported near there to his knowledge. This indicates some change in the range of the birds. Kester was a rider in Stone Canyon for years & never saw condors there (about 1915-20 Ian thought). Ian thinks Kester a most reliable observer and one who pays attention to wildlife. Ian does not regard reports of condors further N. in Monterey Co. as infallible - even those by Dave Selleck. My belief is that except for vagrants, condors ~~are~~ do not now range north of Castle Mountain.

ord, C

Gymnogyps californianus

June 5, 1950. Berkeley, Calif.

Russ Welch, game warden at Porterville, phoned long distance to tell me of a reported condor nest in the northeastern part of Tule Indian Reservation near Mule Peak at the 6600 foot level. A man whom he considered to be reliable had told him of a condor which ~~roosted~~ was seen to leave that area daily at about 3:30 p.m. The man had picked up condor feathers from beneath the tree and Welch had seen them and was sure they were of a condor. Welch was going to try to visit the area and watch the bird. He had seen 5 condors recently at same place he saw 12 last fall. Believes nest is in hole in redwood tree - cavity similar to cave.

ford

Gymnogyps californianus Porterville, Calif.

August 19, 1950. Visited Roswell Welch, game warden at Porterville, and asked him about the supposed condor nest on Tule Indian Reservation. Welch had no recent news about it and rather doubted that it was really a nest. I went to Tule Indian Reservation and drove up the road about 20 miles beyond headquarters to a logging camp at Redwood Corral at the head of Redwood Creek. The upper part of this road was built last spring by a logging company. I found ~~Cao~~ Claude Rauch, Jr., son of the owner of the company. ~~and the man who had c~~ Rauch had climbed a pine tree "about 30 feet" from the nest and looked in. He was sure he had seen a fuzzy gray bird there. Rauch also said that in June he had seen 5 condors at once in the Redwood Creek area. He showed me the tree with nest. It was a Sequoia about 12' d.b.h. and 120± feet tall, living, with green foliage. About 80 feet up tree on SE side was a O hole about 4' in height (Rauch thought perhaps 6 ft.). A large branch had apparently broken off and fire had burnt out a hole at the ~~base~~ ~~fo~~ base of branch. I saw a young condor in the hole while standing on the road. Its head was grayish flesh-color indicating an age of about 18 weeks. Breast was dark gray fluffy down. Tree was 100 feet from the logging road, on NW side its base about 20' above level of road. Tree on moderately steep slope (NW facing slope). At base of tree were a few condor feathers. The ground was much beaten by caterpillar tracks and trees within 50 feet had been felled. The men said that blasting had been done on the road near the tree. The disturbance must have been considerable. Rauch had not seen more than

Gymnogyps californianus

August 19, 1950 Tule Indian Reservation, Tulare Co., Calif.

one adult at this tree. Another man said the birds also entered the nest by ~~a so~~ a similar hole just above and SW of the first. There was a pine tree (18± ") about 25' from the nest hole & directly in front of it. A large diameter stub branch extended ~~grew a~~ out 6±' ~~hole~~ from just below the nest. I supposed the young one would eventually perch there. One man said the adults sometimes perched in another bigtree ~~redwood~~ about 200' downhill from first. Forest here of yellow pine, bigtree, ~~Do~~ Douglas fir, & sugar pine. The bigtrees were supposedly not to be logged but some were down & fence posts had been split from them. Rouch said that logging commenced about May 1 and continued until stopped by rain & snow (Oct. to Dec.). Elevation at tree about 6500 ft. ~~Lol~~ Location 1 mile NW Parker Peak. Rouch's address: Box A, Springville, Calif. The existence of this young bird in nest shows that a nest, once started, can stand very strong periodic disturbances, even blasting, without causing adults to desert. It may be that disturbance was slight until after egg hatched. Trees around nest tree hide it from observers except from a few points so that bird at nest may see few men. It will be important to note whether this site will be used again after sustaining so much disturbance. The existence of this nest ~~shows~~ means that there may be nesting in the Tehachapis or Kern Canyon areas and that ~~all~~ some condors seen in this part of their range are breeding birds with nests. It is

ford

Gymnogyps californianus

August 19, 1950 Tule Indian Reservation, Tulare Co.

also evident that it is the form of the cavity which makes it suitable for nesting, not the fact that it is in rock. To a condor, a huge tree is ~~as sturdy~~ no different than a cliff.

August 21, 1950. Los Angeles, Calif.

Attended open hearing on whether to withdraw from mineral exploration the land in the Sespe Wildlife Preserve. Russell, a Ventura Co. promoter, presented letters & clippings showing condor reports from Bakersfield area (Granite Station, Kern Co. Park, Tejon Ranch). Evidently condors still ~~[illegible]~~ feeding in that region in numbers. Ed Harrison said that a man had written him that he shot some squirrels & put them out (near Bakersfield) and that the condors ~~same~~ came down to feed on them. Apparently there have been a few squibs about condors in Bakersfield Californian this year.

September 13, 1950. With Eben and Ian McMillan went to Tule Indian Reservation to check status of condor nest. Claude Rauch, at the logging camp, told us that about 2 weeks ago Ed Harrison, Shiffler, and another man came up, that Ed climbed the tree with the help of Rauch, & that Ed took many pictures of the young bird in the nest. Rauch said that the young bird and an adult had been seen at the nest yesterday. Mr. & Mrs. Rauch believed that road work near the tree commenced ~~about~~ between May 1 and 15. This would be shortly after the egg hatched ~~so probably~~ Probably adults were not kept from brooding the chick as they are usually very bold at this stage. We went to the tree about 11 a.m. and Eb McMillan and Rauch climbed

ford

Gymnogyps californianus

September 13, 1950 Tule Indian Reservation, Tulare Co.

up opposite the hole. Estimated distance 25 to 30' away. The young bird was about 5' out on a large stub branch about 3' below nest hole. It put head down & tongue out and hissed at times when they were near. Eb took some pictures of bird & hole. I photographed tree from below. Adult was not seen nearby but one seen about ½ mile away being pursued by a hawk. Eb estimated hole to be 4' high × 2½ or 3' wide and about 2½' deep. Floor level. A piece of branch caught at mouth of hole was all that made it suitable for nesting - otherwise, floor would slope outward to open lip. Hole burned black inside. Not much excrement at mouth of hole or on limb where youngster perched. Young bird stayed on same branch for ½ hr. while men near. Perhaps it would not again return to the hole. Below the tree I found two pellets about size of distal joint of forefinger. One green (leaves?), one brown (bark?), and both containing much hair. I also found molar of young calf, maxillary bone of calf with tooth not yet emerged, another skull bone of calf (?). These all fresh appearing & possibly dropped since youngster commenced perching outside nest. At about 2 p.m. after bird alone for 2+ hrs., it was on same branch but facing opposite direction. Eb detected no color on head. Frontal feathers present and down to occiput. No down in area ~~greater~~ lesser upper wing coverts so bird probably 20+ wks. old & ready to leave nest. Breast still entirely downy. Head

Gymnogyps californianus

September 13, 1950. Tule Indian Reservation, Tulare Co.

dark gray. Tree about 175' high, I judge.

September 15, 1950. Letter from Roswell C Welch (Sept. 8, 1950) tells of seeing 10 condors about 10 miles east of Porterville, about 2 miles NE of Success, on ~~Septe~~ August 19. Two at same place August 18.

September 13, 1950 Shandon, Calif.

Eben McMillan told me that on Sept. 12 he saw 4 condors over his house. He had heard earlier (July 5) report of 5 being seen by a man named Davies at Annette. Mrs. Gene Rambo saw 5 on water trough south of Cholame Ranch about July 27.

September 14, 1950. Cholame, Calif.

On way back to Hastings Reservation looked for condors at Cholame Ranch from 9:50 to 10:20 a.m. (D.S.T.) Saw none. About 500 cattle & several old carcasses on Cholame Flat. Turkey vultures (10±) and ravens (5±) present there.

September 24, 1950 Tule Indian Reservation, Tulare Co.

With Eben McMillan visited the condor nest, arriving about 8 a.m. (standard time). The young bird now perched on a branch about 3" in diameter about 20' directly below the nest hole. Some whitewash on ground under bird but I could find no bones or pellets. Measured height of nest hole as 95' from base tree by taping base-line and taking vertical angle of 45°. Practically everyone absent from logging camps today. We waited on the road about 100 yards. from nest tree and at

ford

Gymnogyps californianus

tulare Co.

September 24, 1950 Tule Indian Reservation, about 10 a.m. heard and saw a condor soar 200±' above us and soar on away down the canyon. Probably adult leaving to forage; perhaps kept from chick by us. We left. Eb told me that 3 condors were seen near his house a few days ago.

October 12, 1950. Card from Eben McMillan tells of visit to the Big Tree nest the Thursday before Oct. 10 (letter dated Oct. 10). No sign of young condor. Loggers, including Rouch, had seen no strangers about. Much more droppings under tree than on September 24 so youngster probably stayed in tree to October 1 or later. Eb could not find the young bird in 1 hour of searching.

TO 447L